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Rhodes Vet Clinic

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Newsletter

What is a Zoonosis

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A Zoonosis is a disease than can spread from animals to people. Many are spread from livestock but this summary covers the common ones that are spread from pets.

Scabies: A common one that we see in our practice is Sarcoptic mange which is called "scabies" when it occurs in people. It is common in wild animals such as foxes, koalas and kangaroos. Pets often pick up the mange mites by rolling in a dead carcass. The mites then build up in numbers and cause the pet to be very itchy and can be spread to others pets or humans. Children, older people and those with a poor immune system are most at risk. Many people are immune and will quickly recover from a few itchy spots on their skin. Scabies is fairly easily treated with a lotion available from the chemist.

Animal bites: Bacterial infection from an animal bite or scratch is the most commonly suffered zoonosis in Australia. The mouths of dogs and cats contain huge numbers of dangerous species of bacteria. All bites should be treated as serious and if the skin is broken by a bite or scratch the person is advised to see a doctor.

Psittacosis: Psittacosis is a disease caused by a bacteria and is transmitted to humans from birds. The disease is usually contracted by inhalation of dust containing faecal matter from infected birds. Humans often develop flu like symptoms. Prevention involves good personal hygiene such as washing hands with soap after handling your birds and dampening down the floor of your bird's cage before cleaning.

Giardia: Giardia infection in humans and animals usually occurs via ingestion of contaminated water that may seem very clean. Giardia can also be spread through direct contact and infected dogs and cats are a high zoonotic risk to humans.

Ringworm: Ringworm is a common fungal infection that may be spread from pets to humans and vice versa. A young kitten is the highest risk for spreading ringworm to children. Most older pets and humans develop resistance to ringworm.

Parasites: Serious diseases such as Hydatid disease (a type of tapeworm) and Visceral larva migrans (roundworm) can be spread from contact with dog faeces. Prevention is by basic hygiene, preventing pets having access to offal and regular worming of pets at least every 3 months.

Fortunately, the occurrence of zoonotic disease is uncommon and contact with zoonotic disease agents is preventable by taking a number of precautions including practising good personal hygiene, prompt first aid for bites, cuts and scratches, worming pets and isolating and treating sick animals

We provide:

- Surgery & Medicine for small and large animals
- Herd Health Advice
- Soft Tissue & Orthopaedic Surgery
- Dentistry
- Digital X-ray
- Ultrasound
- In House Blood Testing
- Nutrition
- Prescription Diets
- Microchip Identification

Simpson Office:

Our Simpson Office is open
Monday, Wednesday, Friday
10am to 3pm
P: 03 5594 3257

Colac Office:

Our Colac Office is open
Monday to Friday
8am to 6pm
Saturday 9am to 12 noon
www.rhodesveterinaryclinic.com.au

**We are available 24/7
for emergencies.
Our emergency number
is:**

5232 2111

Dry Cow Therapy 101

Dry cow therapy is the administration of a long-acting antibiotic in to the udder. The aim of which is to clear up any existing mastitis, particularly 'subclinical' cases (have a low grade infection but no visible changes to milk) and to prevent any new infections developing over the dry period. It is often used in conjunction with Teat seal / Sure seal, which create a physical blockage of the teat canal until the cow is first milked, thus stopping anything from entering the udder.

There are a number of different dry cow products on the market. Depending on formulation they persist within the udder for different lengths of time and vary in their effectiveness against different types of bacteria. It is advisable to select your dry cow therapy based on duration of expected dry period for each cow and also mastitis history. Blanket dry cow therapy is recommended and this is where every cow in the herd is treated with a selective dry cow therapy.

Generally dry cow therapy is a wonderful tool for the management and prevention of mastitis, however problems can arise when cows calve earlier than expected or if withholds are incorrectly understood/entered into the computer. Below is a list of common dry cow products and their current withholds.

If a cow calves before the due date and still has residual dry cow in her udder it is important not to assume all the dry cow will be out of her milk vessel in the 4 to 5 days you have milked her. It is important to take a milk sample from each teat and pool it in a sterile container and get it checked by your milk factory for residual antibiotics. If it comes back positive keep her on the bucket for another 4 to 5 days and repeat the test. If it is negative then she can go back into the vat.

NOTE: Dry cow such as Enduro and Cevravin can penetrate high into the udder and may linger in the system longer than other dry cow treatments.

It is important to be vigilant in observing the required milk withholds as contamination of your vat with antibiotic will result in its rejection at the factory! So please read the box/label every year and follow the instructions.

For further information, please contact us on (03) 5232 2111.

Current (May 2017) withholds of common dry cow treatments for quick reference:

Product	Duration of Action	Minimum days from administration to calving	Number of milkings (hours) after calving before cow can be milked into the vat **	Meat withhold
Cevravin Dry Cow	10 weeks	49 days	8 milkings (96 hours)	21 days
Juraclox L.A. 600 Dry Cow	7 weeks	35 days	8 milkings (96 hours)	30 days
Elaclox Dry Cow	7 to 8 weeks	35 days	8 milkings (96 hours)	30 days
Noroclox 500 Dry Cow	4 to 6 weeks	30 days	8 milkings (96 hours)	30 days
Ampiclox Dry Cow	4 to 6 weeks	30 days	8 milkings (96 hours)	30 days

** number of milkings ONLY applies if the minimum days from administration to calving interval has been observed

RVC FOOTY TIPPING

Results after 10 rounds:

1. Emma 60
2. Duane 60
3. Ellie 60

