

**November
2016**

Rhodes Vet Clinic

**Volume 6
Issue 11**

Newsletter

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What is a Hernia?

A hernia is a defect in the muscle wall of the abdomen that allows some part of the internal structures to push through into the defect. They look like a bit of a lump that may go up and down as the internal structures pop back in and out.

Hernias can be something that an animal is born with or they can develop due to some kind of trauma such as being run over or getting stuck somewhere.

The most common hernia to be born with is an umbilical hernia which is where the belly button pops out. Very small ones may be left alone and not repaired. Larger hernias need repairing as essential structures such as intestines can get caught in the hernia which is very serious and life threatening.

The next most common hernia is an inguinal hernia which occurs in each side of the groin. Less common are scrotal hernias where contents of the abdomen can push into the scrotal sac (see photo). Often hernias will be repaired at the time of desexing.

Hernias are generally a defect that is passed through genetically. We would recommend not to breed with animals that have this defect.

Hernias that occur as a result of trauma are often very serious and difficult to repair and require emergency surgery.



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

Cow Hospital Pens

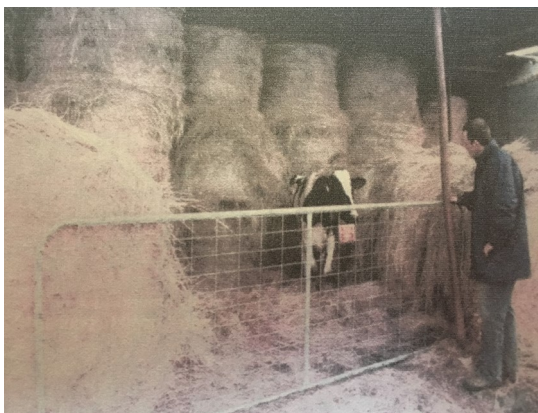
With the recent unusual and unpredictable weather knocking cows about, nursing care has risen to our attention. This is particularly important after surgery, hard calvings and for sick and downer cows.

Do you have a hospital pen? It doesn't have to be permanent, just easy enough to set up at short notice (ie in a hay shed).

We find where the nursing care is spot on, cows get better faster, come back on their milk sooner and better after LDA surgery, and we see a higher success rate for down cows.

What is required:

- **Shelter from rain, sun and wind!** A roof is ideal. In an emergency thick trees or a tarp tied over the yard is a lot better than nothing. If there is still wind a rug/tarp/silage wrapper/blanket over the cow will help.
- **Thick bedding = Minimum 20cm straw/shavings.** Remember those pins and needles you get when you sit awkwardly, well cows weigh a lot more than us, so those pins and needles regularly turn into more permanent nerve damage. Also helps keep them warm.
- **Clean and dry!** Wet = cold = sick.
- **Fenced in.** Gates, hay bales, electric tape, doesn't matter what as long as it works. Down cows, especially those sitting 'frog-legged' with their legs out the back will cause themselves a lot more damage if able to drag themselves around. Once she is trying to escape she is likely ready to go back outside.
- **Tractor access.** For lifting, getting her in and out, cleaning the bedding out etc.
- **Not where calves go.** The last thing you want is to ruin your Johnes control program or spread salmonella, IBR etc to your calves.
- **Good quality roughage and water.** Hay, hay and more hay.
- In an ideal world they are close to a crush so that the cow can easily be walked there to be medicated as required.



S4 prescription meds are prescribed by a Vet and the Vet MUST have been on your property within the past twelve months. Your Dr needs to see you to prescribe these meds and we must see your animal.

When paying money directly into our bank account please use your Surname and client number, (located at the bottom of your account) as you reference

Everyone who owns an Alpaca or Llama or is thinking of owning one should read this new Camelid code of practice.

http://www.ava.com.au/sites/default/files/AVA_website/pdf/2016-AAV-camelid-welfare-code-190916.pdf