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Rhodes Vet Clinic

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Newsletter

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Hay fever Time!

With all the grass and pollen around, many of us, pets and humans are suffering with hay fever.

Most commonly pets show signs such as foot licking, face rubbing, belly rubbing, red eyes and sometimes coughing or sneezing. In mild cases regular, over the counter, anti-histamines are effective at controlling the discomfort.

Most human antihistamines are safe for pets and a whole tablet can be given once or twice daily. For example: Avil, Phenergan, Polaramine, Zyrtec and Claratyne are all readily available at the chemist and safe to use short or long term.

Keeping the skin clean with medicated shampoo such as "Malaseb" often helps to prevent secondary skin infection. "Pinetarsol" baths also sometimes relieves the itch. Keeping the grass mowed and preventing access to long grass may also be helpful.

Over time, hay fever symptoms can progress and more aggressive treatment is required. Secondary skin infections and eye infections commonly require a veterinary visit and antibiotics. In some cases cortisone is required to settle the inflammation.

Early treatment with daily antihistamines is the safest and most effective way to treat hay fever in pets (and people)!



Management & Staff of Rhodes Veterinary Clinic wish all our valued clients a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We thank you for your patronage and look forward to seeing you again in 2015!

Exciting news!
We have Dr Jess Thomas joining our team in the New Year.

A special thanks to our Vet Students who have been around the Clinic over the past month assisting Mike and Cate. Thank you Ebonnie, Mahala and Tanika. We have enjoyed your company.



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



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**

Polioencephalomalacia



What to look for

- Depression
- A range of nervous signs - blindness, wandering aimlessly, excessive salivation and head pressing
- A fine tremor of muscles may progress to convulsions
- Death

Cause - Thiamine deficiency

Thiamine (vitamin B1) is usually produced in the rumen, but sometimes chemicals (known as thiaminases) break down the thiamine in the rumen. Thiaminases can arise from microorganisms that live in the rumen and it is also believed that ingestion of some plants may contribute to the problem. In some cases it is thought that an excessive amount of sulphur in the diet can cause changes in the rumen that limit thiamine production or availability.

Animals likely to be affected

Young animals between 6 - 18 months of age. Most cases involve recently weaned calves during the early summer months. Occasionally, adult animals are affected.

Other diseases with similar signs

Other diseases that cause nervous signs in animals include lead poisoning, salt poisoning, grass tetany, vitamin A deficiency and infection of the brain by microorganisms such as listeria.

Confirming the diagnosis

Diagnosis is made on the history of the outbreak, the clinical signs in affected animals and their response to thiamine. There are no routine laboratory tests for use in live animals but, if an animal dies, a post-mortem examination will reveal distinctive changes in the brain.

Treatment

Animals suspected of having PEM should be promptly treated by thiamine injections into the vein. The effect of this treatment is relatively short-lived and it needs to be repeated every few hours and followed up by treatment over the next few days. Animals treated early in the course of the disease have a reasonable chance of recovery but treatment of seriously affected animals is unlikely to be successful.

Prevention

PEM is not often seen and there is little that can be done to anticipate or prevent cases. If your farm is in an area where PEM occurs more often there may be some local information on plants that could be sources of thiaminases. If so, it may be worthwhile restricting access of susceptible animals to these plants.

(From the Dairy Australia website)

