

**October
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Rhodes Vet Clinic

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Newsletter

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New weapon to battle itchiness!

With the warmer weather upon us itchy/scratchy season is beginning for many dogs.

Step 1: Flea treat them! You may not think your dog has fleas (we can check for you), but most of the itchy dogs and cats we see are due to fleas. You will need to flea treat them as per label directions at the bare minimum over the spring/summer period, ideally control should be used year round. Most spot on treatments require monthly dosing, chews can last from 1-3 months depending on the product. Beware some cheaper products do not work or can be toxic if not used exactly as per labelled.

Step 2: Flea treating didn't work? Bring them to the clinic for a check-up as they may have allergies, a bacterial infection or mange.

If you already know your dog has allergies, and antihistamines aren't controlling it adequately, and you don't want your dog on steroids (Cortisone/prednisolone) due to concerns over the side effects associated with long term use, speak to us about a new drug that is available.



We are very excited to say after using this drug for a few months we have been seeing excellent results. This drug showed minimal side-effects in the drug trials and we have had no reports of side effects in our patients. For many dogs it's like a miracle after battling years of debilitating and expensive skin problems!!



So if you have an itchy dog, there are new options out there. Please come and see us and let us help you win the war against itchiness.

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

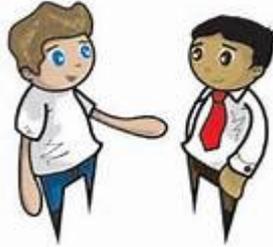
**We are available 24/7
for emergencies.
Our emergency number
is:
5232 2111**

Calf Scours — Cryptosporidium “Crypto”

My calves are not responding to antibiotics and they look woeful and still have diarrhoea.

Yes, Why?

So what do I do?



Did you recently buy calves from the sale yards?

Then you will most likely have “crypto”

It is a highly infectious! If one of the group has it then they will all have it!

You will need to isolate these calves from all other calves. You can only treat this disease with a specific drug called “Halocur”. No other drug will kill/remove crypto so it is pointless to treat it with antibiotics. We have an in-house test that can diagnose it from a faecal sample.

- Unfortunately, as this is caused by a protozoan parasite we have no vaccine.
- Faecal-oral transmission.
- Affected calves are typically 4 days to 4 weeks old. Once they are past this age cattle have some innate immunity.
- Calves can incubate the disease for up to 3-6 days before showing symptoms - thus why it is so important to treat all in contact calves, even if they are not showing signs at the time of diagnosis.
- As it destroys the absorptive capacity of the gut leading to diarrhoea, it is the dehydration that kills the calves. Keeping the fluid up to the calves is vital; adding in a few extra electrolyte feeds during the day where possible will make a big difference.
- Without treatment the majority of calves affected will die long drawn out deaths.
- Oocysts are resistant to most disinfectants and can survive for several months to years in cool and moist conditions. Vircon will work but the shed/pens will still need to be spelled for 6 months.



So how did my calves get it? Crypto is not picky about which species it infects. Cats, pest species and wildlife can carry it onto your farm. It even survives in humans! Oocytes - the spore-like life stage of crypto are excreted in the faeces and can survive in cool moist conditions for years. Paddocks, the back of the calving shed, sale yards, trucks, contaminated water supplies or even feedstuffs and bedding are all potential sources. Because it is so contagious all it takes is one calf to get it and the whole pen will have it. If dividers between pens are not solid (ie calves can touch nose to nose) it will easily spread from pen to pen. Boots and feeding equipment are also culprits. Ensure strict hygiene practices, and always feed/treat sick calves last. Because it is not a bacterium, antibiotics will NOT work. Early diagnosis and treatment is the key. If you have any questions or at any stage suspect you may be dealing with crypto please call us 5232 2111

Footy Tipping 2016

The annual Rhodes Veterinary Clinic AFL Football Tipping has come to a close for another year!

Thank you to all who participated in the weekly fun and congratulations to the winners.

1. Kosta 2. Tom 3. Cindy

2nd to last. Peter R