

**April  
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# Rhodes Vet Clinic

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**Newsletter**

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## The unusual Case!

We all know about Thiamine deficiency in calves. Its correct name is polioencephalomalacia (PEM), the vegemite disease. It is associated with the lack of VITAMIN B1 (Thiamine).

It causes the calf to have grass tetany like symptoms, frothing, convulsions, unable to see, unable to walk, recumbency. All in all it is unpleasant.

The lack of Vitamin B1 is due to an enzyme that destroys the B1 that can be in the grass or weed or poor hay. The animal must be supplemented with Vitamin B1 injections and it would normally recover in 12 to 24 hours. A good pellet in the feed ration will prevent the calf getting it again.



So what is unusual? ..... This has happened to two miniature ponies! We have had discussions with our specialist Equine Vets and they are all dumb founded as they have not heard about it at all in horses!



### 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**

# Is My Pet a Healthy Weight?

As body fat increases so does the risk for:

- \* Increased physical injury
- \* Arthritis
- \* Diabetes
- \* Reduced mobility
- \* Cancer
- \* Shortened life expectancy
- \* Respiratory disease
- \* Kidney disease
- \* Liver disease
- \* Pancreatitis

You can tell if your pet is an ideal weight by their body shape and the cover over their ribs. Ideally ribs should be slightly prominent, easily felt and have a thin fat cover. From above you should be able to see a "waist". From the side the tummy should tuck up. The tail base bones should be easily felt and have a thin fat cover.

The common factors that contribute to weight gain are:

- \* Too many treats
- \* Too many bones
- \* Too much dry food
- \* Too little exercise

If you are unsure of your individual pet's ideal healthy weight, then please visit the clinic for a free weight check-up and advice. Keep in mind that all pets have different energy requirements depending on breed, age, temperament and lifestyle.

## WHAT SHAPE IS YOUR PET?

A little extra weight can be a BIG PROBLEM. Check your pet's body weight today.

1 VERY THIN - 5% body fat	2 UNDER WEIGHT 5-15% body fat	3 IDEAL 16-25% body fat	4 OVER WEIGHT 26-35% body fat	5 OBESE 35%+ body fat
Consult your veterinarian.	Ask your veterinarian if you're underfeeding.	Great job. Keep doing what you're doing.	Increase exercise & consult your veterinarian about the right nutrition.	Can cause serious health problems. Consult your veterinarian about the right nutrition.
				