

**September
2016**

Rhodes Vet Clinic



**Volume 6
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Newsletter

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Managing Gastrointestinal problems

Tummy upsets are a common reason for a visit to the Vet. Your pet may experience vomiting, diarrhoea, abdominal pain, bloating or may stop eating and drinking due to a gastrointestinal problem.

Common causes for tummy upsets:

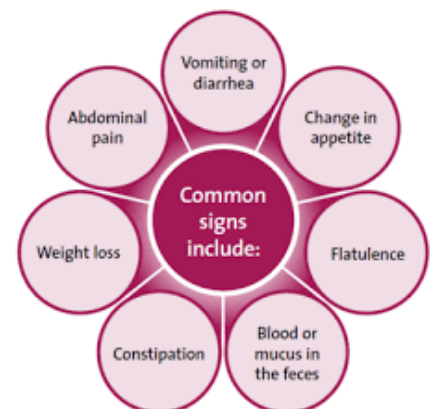
- Garbage intoxication which may be due to getting into rubbish, compost, cow foetal membranes, manure or chewing on an old bone / cooked bone
- Pancreatitis which is triggered by a fatty meal such as sausages or other human food
- Dietary intolerance due to having a sensitive gut that may react to treats or any changes in the regular diet
- Liver problems
- Kidney problems
- Drinking sea water
- Infectious causes such as parvovirus or bacterial infection are less common

Minor upsets can sometimes be managed at home. If your pet is fairly bright and happy but has a little vomit or some diarrhoea, then fasting for 12-24 hours may settle the tummy. Offer only small amounts of water at a time and then when you introduce food again offer something bland and low fat such as boiled chicken and rice.

More serious problems will need to be managed with a visit to the Vet. If there is significant dehydration, then the animal may need to be hospitalised for intravenous fluids.

Signs that your pet needs a visit to the Vet include:

- Depression, not wanting to get out of bed
- Diarrhoea or vomiting lasting more than 24 hours
- Not able to keep fluids down
- Blood in the vomit or diarrhoea
- Obvious weight loss
- Nervous signs such as twitching, tremors, seizures



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**

Start of Spring Check List:



- Vaccinate cattle for Pink Eye, before the fly season starts.
- Now is the best time to geld horses; better weather, less mud, no flies yet.
- If you have stock that you need castrated or dehorned/debudded plan to get them done before or after the summer temperatures and flies.
- Remember to administer drenches, booster vaccinations and supplement with copper, cobalt and selenium prior to lambing, calving, or the unpacking of alpacas.
- With the grass beginning to grow remember to take laminitis prone horses off fresh pasture, especially short new shoots and after frosts.
- Condition score animals. Overfat cows and sheep are predisposed to calving trouble, uterine prolapses, fertility problems and heat stress.
- Start making your feed budgets for summer and ensure you will have sufficient shade and water.
- Calves can be vaccinated and wormed from 6 weeks of age.
- Keep pregnant cows, especially those early pregnant, and cows that you are joining away from cyprus trees which, if eaten, may cause abortions



September Spring special:

For each 6 month Frontline pack you purchase we will give you an extra month's treatment for FREE (while stocks last)

RVC Football Tipping Update:

Thank to everyone who participated in our Football Tipping this year. We have had a very close ladder for most of the year.

Results will be posted on Facebook once the presentation has been held

Dr Mike will be back on deck later this month!

