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Rhodes Vet Clinic

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Newsletter

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Can my cat eat dog food?

Sometimes little attention is given to what we feed to our pets but it can often be the reason for a visit to the vet. It is not uncommon for cats to eat dog food but it does carry with it risks and should be avoided.



Why?

Many dog foods do not contain sufficient amounts of Vitamin A, Arachidonic acid an amino acid called Taurine. This not only prevents cats from having an optimum level of health but can also make them susceptible to problems such as heart disease.

CASE REVIEW

Recently we had a feline patient with an extensive history of kidney problems and bladder stones. The owners were diligent about feeding only a specially prescribed diet for protection of the cat's kidneys and no problems were seen for 8 years. A single incident one afternoon where the curious cat got into the dog's food led to another blocked bladder within hours. Luckily after a few days in hospital all was resolved but it could have been much worse. This case really reminded us of just how important the correct food for the right pet can be.

To avoid problems associated with poor nutrition provide a good quality balanced diet that is intended for your pet's needs and stage of life.



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 & 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

Crypto in Calves



Cryptosporidium parvum is caused by a protozoan parasite. It typically affects calves from 6 days of age. It can also infect humans, mainly children.

How do calves get infected?

Calves can be infected by ingesting the organism which is found in manure, soil or water. It invades the wall of the intestine and undergoes a multiplication phase. Eggs (oocysts) are produced and either re-infect the calf or are shed into the environment. This organism can also be present in other animal species on a farm.

Clinical signs appear 2–5 days after infection. Following an infection, a calf can shed the eggs for 2 weeks or longer. This means they can infect other calves who come into contact with their faeces for up to 2 weeks after treatment has finished.

How long can it last in the environment?

The eggs can survive for months to years in water and soil in cool conditions. Unsuitable climatic conditions such as dry and warmth can significantly reduce the number of viable eggs.

How is it treated?

Halofuginone, trade name “Halocur” is the only drug registered in Australia for the control and prevention of *Cryptosporidium parvum* infections in calves. It is a prescription medication. It will control the protozoan parasite, however fluid therapy and nursing care is just as important as death occurs due to the dehydration caused by the diarrhoea.

How do I prevent it?

Unfortunately, there is no vaccination available.

Avoid overcrowding and exposure to possible sources of infection eg. contaminated water, pasture grazed by older cattle or manure from other animal species.

Minimise calf contact with manure from adult cattle by early removal of the calf from its dam (Dairy systems). Ensure calves are not exposed to manure during transportation to calf rearing area or during the rearing period.

Maximise immune system response by ensuring successful passive transfer of antibodies- colostrum is key!

Hills Feline Individual Sachets

Purchase any 2 sachets of the new Hills range and receive 1 sachet for free! - (while stocks last)

This new range includes sachets for cats on prescription c/d, k/d, i/d diets and hairball relief. We also have sachets to suit kittens through to aged cats

