

**March
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Rhodes Vet Clinic

**Volume 8
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Newsletter

Autumn Is Here!

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Some thoughts for the upcoming months:

- Are your cows (and sheep, alpacas, goats) up to date with core vaccines? 5in1 or 7in1- these protect against Clostridial diseases. (7in1 also protects against leptospirosis which is zoonotic). Calves can be vaccinated from 6 weeks. Initially 2 shots 3-6 weeks apart is required and then annual boosters. We see death and disease due to clostridial bacteria fairly commonly which is completely preventable with vaccination. It is important to note that vaccines must be kept refrigerated right up until they are given. If they get hot they quite simply will not work. For horses 2in1 is your core vaccine.

Vaccines getting hot is a very common cause of vaccine failure. The proteins in the vaccine that mimic the bacterial proteins are not that stable and when they get hot the proteins change shape and so the immune system cannot be trained to recognise and train these proteins.

- Pre calving vaccinations for calf scours. Are you vaccinating this year? If not, why not? Have you started heifers and any new cows early so that you have time to get the initial 2 doses into them? If you are not sure if you need to vaccinate or what for in your situation, please come and have a chat. These can be used in both beef and dairy settings and can drastically reduce calf disease and thus labour/stress on everyone.
- De-worming. With the autumn break comes the time to get your second summer drench in or get some faecal samples and get a worm egg count done. Samples can be sent to the lab for larval culture also, especially sheep, goats, alpacas, horses and cattle who are not rotationally grazed. Again if at all unsure come and have a chat.
- With autumn calving starting for many - refractometers for colostrum testing. Are you organised? If you don't usually test colostrum, this year could be the year to start.

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

Aged Pets

He's just getting old!

It's a pretty common phrase to hear as creatures age and slow down and sleep more. It's normal right?

To be honest most of us were raised to think this.. well I certainly was!!

Age is not a disease. It does however predispose you to disease. Our better care, vaccination programmes and dietary improvements has ensured that our animals are now living longer.

This longevity brings old age problems:

- ◇ Increased risk of all cancers
- ◇ Dental disease
- ◇ Heart problems
- ◇ Renal failure
- ◇ Joint issues
- ◇ Dementia
- ◇ Strokes



Rather than waiting for a catastrophic event to occur we can start picking up on problems as they begin to happen if your pet has an annual check up. Ideally in this check up we would love to run bloods on ALL pets over the age of 8 years old. We know this is not always practical but the option is there.

Like everything in life the earlier an issue is detected and treated / managed the better the outcome!

2018 AFL Footy Tipping Competition



Last chance to join us in some weekly fun!
Please advise us ASAP if you wish to participate.
There is a small cost of \$1/round or \$23 for the season

Tips must be either emailed (cindy@rhodesvet.com.au), faxed (5231 5892) or delivered to the clinic by 5pm on the day of the first game of each round.

If tips are not received by the closing time you will receive the week's lowest tipping result less one point.
Tips will not be accepted by telephone.

We will accept several entries from each house if more than one person wishes to participate
.... just ensure the tips are named.

The leader board will be emailed out to participants weekly.