

**May  
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# Rhodes Vet Clinic

**Volume 8  
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**Newsletter**

## Hyperthyroidism

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### **Veterinarians:**

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My cat is looking terrible. She / He has lost so much weight and yet is eating as if there is no tomorrow. The cat is also drinking heaps and has become really aggressive and nothing has changed at home.

This scenario describes the perfect classic signs of hyperthyroidism.

This is very common in cats middle age and older or even middle to later in life.

Hyperthyroidism is usually due to an enlarged thyroid gland producing too much hormone which supercharges the cat's metabolism.

We can take a blood test and this sample is sent off to the Lab for analysis. It often comes back very high.

There are a few treatment options. A referral centre can use radioactive iodine to destroy part of the thyroid gland. When this is successful there is no further treatment required. You have the option to give your cat tablets every morning and night. The third option (most commonly used in our Clinic) is to apply a gel to the inner ear tips each morning and night.



NOTE: Cats with hyperthyroidism are managed for the rest of their life with medication and /or regular blood tests to ensure levels are correct.

### **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](http://www.rhodesveterinaryclinic.com.au)

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

**5232 2111**

## Alpacas—Vitamin D<sub>3</sub>

Alpacas are designed for high altitudes, areas with high UV.

Vitamin D is made in the skin utilising UV light or ingested in feed and hay. Alpacas are OK in Australia in Summer but once light levels drop they become at risk for deficiency as Vitamin D is stored in fat for only 6-8 weeks.

Higher risk animals include heavily fleeced, black, housed and growing ( less than 3 years of age) stock.

Supplementation is recommended for higher risk animals (as above) in May, July and September and for pregnant females at 4 weeks pre-partum (day 300 gestation). This is to get Vitamin D into the colostrum as normal Alpaca milk has no Vitamin D and is only transferred to the cria in the colostrum.

An average 80kg adult alpaca can be given 10ml Vitamin ADE injection or 0.5ml D Bal Injection every 8 weeks. (The recommended rate is 6000 iu /kg). If you are unsure how much your alpacas need please contact us. Too much can be toxic.

Sheering the Alpacas in spring will increase the UV intake over Summer.

Fertilising pastures with super phosphate is helpful.

Vitamin D is important as without it a number of issues occur, including rickets.



### Did you know that...

A spider hears using tiny hairs (sensory nerves) on its legs



#### 2018 AFL Footy Tipping Competition Results after Week 6:

1. Janine	39
2. Alan	37
3. Sue	37
4. Sharyn	37
5. Cindy	37



The competition this year is very tight ... we have the top 5 above and another 10 people on 36!