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Rhodes Vet Clinic

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Newsletter

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Woody Tongue In Cattle

This is a very common disease in cattle and should be differentiated from lumpy jaw.

Woody tongue presents with a large swelling under the jaw. On palpation you will note the swelling is very firm and on opening the mouth you will see a very swollen tongue that is extremely hard when touched – hence the name woody tongue.

The cow will be salivating a lot and will be unable to eat because the tongue is so hard it does not move in the mouth. If woody tongue is left untreated it can cause death to the animal.

The cause of woody tongue is bacterial. The bacteria is abundant on the ground at this time of the year. The hard dry feed causes puncture wounds in the mouth allowing the bacteria to enter. Grass seeds are also a common cause of this injury. The cow will usually show signs within 48 – 96 hours from the start of the infection.

Treatment is via a large dose of broad spectrum antibiotics best given intravenously to allow the medications to get into the area of the infection quickly. Within 24 hours of treatment the animal's swollen tongue will subside and it will start eating again.

Keep your eyes open, especially at this time of the year. Lots of dry fodder equals lots of woody tongue



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

Mast Cell Tumours

Mast cells are cells that live in areas that are closest to the external surfaces (e.g., skin, lungs, nose, mouth) and their primary functions include defending against parasitic infestations, assist with tissue repair, and aid in the formation of new blood vessels. They are also very important to assist your pet to deal with allergic reactions.

A mast cell tumour is formed from many of these mast cells and they are the most common skin tumours found in all breed of dogs. Mast cell tumours account for 16 – 21% of all skin tumours and they tend to be more of a problem in older dogs of both sexes.

These cancers start off in the bone marrow, the cause of which is unknown. The mast cells then migrates out to the skin and other areas. We find these pesky tumours popping up in the spleen, liver, intestines and respiratory areas.

When these cells turn to the dark side (become a mast cell tumour) they produce a very large amount of histamin and heparin. We often see animals present with large blood blisters that will not stop bleeding and this is because heparin is an anticoagulant.

Our most common treatment is surgery and this usually only gets the obvious lump but we find that more lumps often will develop again within a short time. Both chemotherapy and radiotherapy can be used with limited success.

Unfortunately when we diagnose a mast cell tumour the outcome is often not a good one!



2019 AFL Footy Tipping Competition

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