

**May  
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# Rhodes Vet Clinic

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**Newsletter**

## Bone Cancer ( Osteosarcoma)

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Osteosarcoma is by far the most common bone tumour found in our dogs. It is a malignant tumour of the bone and can develop in any bone, but most often occurs in bones bordering the shoulder, wrist and knee.

Signs of bone cancer can include swelling, limping and lameness, lethargy and localised joint / bone pain. We diagnose this cancer using x-rays, biopsies and blood tests.

Osteosarcoma develops deep within the bone and becomes progressively more painful as it grows outward and the bone is destroyed from the inside out. Lameness may occur suddenly or start intermittently and progress over several weeks. Obvious swelling becomes evident as the tumour grows and normal bone is replaced by tumorous bone.

Tumorous bone is not as strong as a healthy bone and can break with minor injury. This broken bone (fracture) will not heal.

Osteosarcoma usually occurs in middle aged or elderly large and giant breed dogs but can occur in a dog of any age. Osteosarcoma is extremely aggressive and has a tendency to spread rapidly into other parts of the dog's body and unfortunately the long term prognosis for the animal is extremely poor.



### 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**

## End of the Dry Spell

It has been a very long dry period and this will have ramifications on our cattle. With the grass being very short the cows are eating very low to the ground. The chances of worm burden increases exponentially.

These cows can be identified by a dirty tail and loose stools when their mates will have dry tails.

The other major problem with cattle eating close to the ground is the chance of them picking up clostridial diseases such as black leg, tetanus, pulpy kidney and perfringens. Ensure you are up to date with your 7 in 1 vaccinations as a current vaccination programme will stop death later.

Keep an eye on your cattle's condition score. If they have calves at foot then they need more energy to produce milk. If they are dropping condition you should supplement them with an improved food source or wean the calves to reduce the weight loss in the mothers.

If you wean the calves remember you will need to provide them with increased nutrition that includes protein and carbohydrates. This could be using Lucerne, Veitch and grains etc. The use of molasses poured over hay can enhance the digestibility of it. Mix a 2 gallon bucket of molasses with warm water and pour it over a large round bale that is sitting on its end so the solution permeates through the hay. This can be done in the morning and the bale fed out in the afternoon or soaked at night and fed out tomorrow. You will get more out of your hay and the animals will eat it leaving minimal waste.

When the rains do come we will have other wonderful problems which we will discuss next month.



We welcomed a special guest this week. She was in for a final check over before being released



### 2019 AFL Tipping Ladder:

1. **Tim** 35
2. **Scott** 34
3. **Ellis** 33
4. **Steve** 33
5. **Karen** 32