

**April
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Rhodes Vet Clinic



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Newsletter



Nasal Granuloma (Snoring Disease)

Rhodes Veterinary Clinic
74 Gellibrand Street
COLAC 3250
P: 03 5232 2111
F: 03 5231 5892
E: rhodesvet-dsl@pacific.net.au

Veterinarians:

Dr Michael Rhodes
Dr Cate Watt

Practice Manager:

Cindy Schoell

Nurses:

Kirsty Paton
Sharon Earnshaw

Simpson:

Christine Burgin

It was brought to my attention this month when a client asked me "What is that" while pointing to the nose and mouth of his cow, and "why is she breathing so loud?"

The nose had a muco-purulent discharge (coloured snot) from both sides of the nostrils and she was drooling. Her breathing was very laboured and it sounded as if she was snoring. Hence the common name snoring disease.

All cattle can get it but Jersey cows are by far the most common to contract this disease. It is spread from cow to calf and cow to cow, especially when one feeds in the bails or in feeding rings.

The cause of this problem is 3 fold. Firstly the calf / yearling / cow is infected by our favourite respiratory virus IBR. The second wave of infection is usually a Staph infection which gives you the colour in the nasal discharge. Finally the third infection is a mycoplasma which gives you the persistence. Once these have combined the animal is infected for life. The only treatment at this stage is having her head removed!

To prevent this from starting vaccinate ALL animals with Bovilis MH+IBR vaccine. This stops the IBR getting a hold in the animal and so steps 2 & 3 from occurring.



We provide:

- Surgery & Medicine for both small and large animals
- Soft Tissue & Orthopaedic Surgery
- Dentistry
- X-ray & Ultrasound
- In House Blood Testing
- Nutrition & Prescription Diets
- Microchip Identification

Simpson Office:

Our Simpson Office is open
Monday, Wednesday, Friday
10am to 3pm
P: 03 5594 3257
F: 03 5594 3339

Colac Office:

Our Colac Office is open
Monday to Friday
8am to 6pm
Saturday 9am to 12 noon

We are available 24/7 for emergencies.

Our emergency number is:

5232 2111



Euthanasia



We are fortunate in veterinary medicine to have the option of euthanasia available. It can be a painful and difficult decision that most pet owners have to face, but putting a pet to sleep can sometimes be the best thing for all concerned. It can be the best option where there is deterioration of quality of life or when there is dangerous behaviour.

Deciding when is the “right time” can be very difficult and personal.

The information we use to help you decide are: “is your pet eating?” and “can they take themselves to the toilet?” If the answer is “no” to either of these questions then there is an issue about quality of life and a decision to euthanase needs to be made fairly quickly. Sometimes the answer is not so clear. As the owner, you know your pet the best and can tell whether they are struggling and ‘not themselves’. Sometimes there needs to be a family conference so everyone has a chance to express their feelings and come to a mutual decision.

If you are worried about your pet, talk to us about how we can make your pet comfortable. Some pets manage quite well on medications for pain. As they can’t talk we need to look for other cues that they are in pain like having trouble getting up, poor appetite, not wanting to go for a walk or panting a lot. They often will not cry even when in a lot of pain.

When the time comes, the procedure is quick and painless. Your pet will be given an intravenous injection of an anaesthetic and will rapidly relax and slip into a deep and permanent sleep within about a minute. A veterinary nurse will usually assist with holding the animal but you may pat your pet and talk to them while this is happening. Some owners decide they would rather not be present but you are most welcome to attend and often children are present too. It can help them understand and come to terms with the process of death.

Some owners elect to leave the body with us for burial but some will take them home to bury in a special place or they can be collected from us for professional cremation. The ashes are returned in a week or so and owners have a choice of vessels in which to keep the ashes. They may have a plaque with their name or even a photo on a small wooden box or urn.

Afterwards, it’s perfectly normal to grieve. In here it’s a part of what we do and we have plenty of tissues! Grieving is a normal, healthy reaction to the loss of a family member- which our pets really are. You may find that the grief lasts for quite a while and that’s ok. Each day will get easier and one day you may be ready to find a new furry friend to love. Remember that putting your pet to sleep is the ultimate kindness that you can do for them, allowing them to pass away gently and with dignity.



Footy is back!

Welcome to everyone who has registered to have some fun with us each week with our Footy Tipping! The competitive nature amongst our tippers is showing already.

It is fitting for a Vet Clinic that our early leaders are pets, Kosta and Tigga.

