



**April
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Rhodes Vet Clinic

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Newsletter

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Canine Parvovirus - why do we vaccinate?

Parvovirus in dogs is a severe life threatening illness. Most at risk are pups 6 weeks to 6 months old with incomplete vaccinations. Affected pups have a loss of energy, stop eating and have profuse vomiting and diarrhoea which is usually bloody. The virus targets the lining of the intestine, stripping away the ability to absorb water and nutrients and allowing bacterial invasion from the gut into the body. Death rate without aggressive intravenous therapy and intense veterinary therapy is greater than 80%. Even with treatment 30% will still not survive.

The infection is via the faecal/oral route. Infected dogs shed the virus in their faeces in large numbers for several days before exhibiting any symptoms. Since the virus is very hardy in the environment it can survive for years on the ground. Public places, parks and beaches can be contaminated with parvovirus but it cannot be seen with the naked eye. These places are not a safe place for a pup or any dog unless they are up to date with vaccinations.

Symptoms start about 6-10 days after infection. Some breeds are at higher risk such as Rottweilers, Dobermans, Labradors, German Shepherds, Springer Spaniels and Alaskan Malamutes. In these high risk breeds the vaccination protocol may be extended to 18 or 22 weeks. Pups require a minimum of one vaccination at 6-8 weeks and a booster at 12 weeks. Vaccinated bitches are essential to provide protection for the pup until they have their first vaccination. Parvovirus can cause sudden death in very young pups where the bitches have not been vaccinated. Most vaccines are not safe during pregnancy so it is important that bitches are up to date with vaccinations before mating. Otherwise a vaccination for the bitch should be done as soon as possible after the birth of the pups.

There have been recent outbreaks of Parvovirus in country Victoria. Please keep up to date with vaccinations so we are not seeing puppies suffer through this horrible disease.

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, Wednesday, 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**



Autumn Problem - Abomasal Ulcers



Farmers have been feeding the cows crop, silage and hay. They then notice the usually high performing cow is the size of a blimp and she has no milk and is reluctant to walk and has general malaise.

This is possibly due to the cow having an abomasal ulcer. The definitive diagnosis is when we Vets listen to a very rapid heart rate and the cow has very smelly, black, tarry faeces.

So what is happening? The cow gets a small ulcer in the fourth stomach (abomasum). This ulcer can progress and erode away the abomasal lining and the underlying vessels. This causes the animal to bleed into the abomasum. This blood then passes into the small intestine where it is digested—hence the dark sticky faeces.

Usually when the animal reaches this stage treatment is often unrewarding and the mortality rate is high!

So what can you do?

Give all your cows Eno's?? The most practical thing you can do is change when you feed the crop to your cows. Instead of feeding the crop in the morning it is better to feed the herd with a bale of hay after morning milking and then feed the crop around noon. Later in the day the sugars increase in the crop and this aids digestion and therefore reduces the acidity of the feed and thus reduces the chance of abomasal ulcers.

Once the autumn break occurs and more availability of green feed comes into the diet the number of abomasal issues drops dramatically!



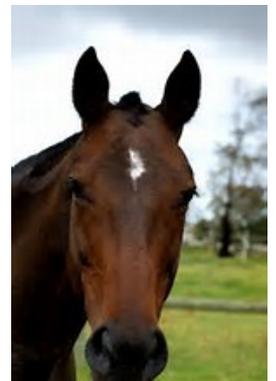
EASTER

The Clinic will close at 6pm on Thursday, 13th April and will re-open at 8am on Tuesday, 18th April.

Over this Easter break we will still be available for emergencies.

STRANGLES VACCINATION REMINDER

If you vaccinated your horses in response to the local Strangles outbreak this time last year your horses are now due for a booster vaccination.



AFTER HOURS TELEPHONE CALLS

We have a new after hours telephone system in place. The message will advise you of our operating hours and any emergency calls will be transferred to the on call Veterinarian.

FOOTY TIPPING HAS BEGUN!

We have 39 avid tippers who have joined in for the fun this year. Good luck to all!