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Rhodes Vet Clinic

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Newsletter

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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

Fibre

The old saying of filling the rumen with roughage is the best health for the rumen. We have cold wet weather with cattle eating the farm away and farmers still have silage left over. The first thing you want to do is to continue feeding silage. Unfortunately it is not roughage. It is far too digestible and will go through the animal.

The easiest method to estimate how much roughage a cow is eating is to look at the back end. If the cow has runny to watery faeces then there is NOT enough roughage in the diet. If the faeces is very smelly and loose then not only is there not enough roughage, there is too much protein in the diet so it is very important to look at reducing added protein and increasing roughage.

What is roughage? The definition is dry matter that has a high NDF, i.e. it does have high cellulose and low digestibility. Roughage is not rubbish. Cows will not eat spoilt hay or straw and why should they. They require good quality hay / straw so they will then eat it and it should be supplied to the cow adlib so she decides how much dry matter she needs. Feed stations are very important for the cows to have access to the dry matter.

It is important to the cow's bacterial rumen health to supply enough fibre to maintain a raft to allow the rumen flora (good bugs) to coat and float on the surrounding soup of wet grass, silage, bale feed and water. Without this fibre there is a very rapid transit of food matter through the rumen and intestines and ending up out the back of the cow as a shower of s...!



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

BE CAREFUL

Using Human Medicines For Pets



Many human medicines that are routinely available over the counter are quite toxic to pets. There are however, some human medications that can be safely used.

Panadol (also called Acetaminophen) is a common toxicity. For cats as little as a quarter of the tablet can be lethal. A 20kg dog would need to ingest several tablets to cause serious damage. Panadol damages the red blood cells, particularly in cats and is also highly toxic to the liver.



Ibuprofen (Nurofen /Advil) is completely unsuitable and should not be used under any circumstances. It will cause vomiting and severe stomach ulcers and internal haemorrhage.

Aspirin is one human anti-inflammatory drug that may be used safely at the correct dose rate. For example a 30kg dog would be able to safely tolerate a single dose of one tablet (300mg). It would need to be given with food. Multiple doses could still cause stomach problems. The anti-inflammatories we commonly use in pets are basically a more sophisticated form of aspirin that is more effective and gentler on the stomach and more suitable for longer term use.



There have been occasions when pets have accidentally eaten human heart or blood pressure tablets or sleeping pills. Many heart drugs are similar but given at different dose rates for pets. Depending on the drug and dose rate it may be ok but please call and check if that happens.

If your pet should ingest any medicines or poisons the most rapid way to deal with this is to cause the pet to vomit. At home this can be effectively done by giving the pet a washing soda ("Lectric soda" crystal). Choose a large crystal and give it like a tablet. In any case please call the clinic for advice. We have a very effective injection to cause vomiting.



Antihistamines are safe to use in pets. It is good to have these on hand in case of an allergic reaction or bee sting. We have a list of the common ones that can be purchased over the counter at the chemist.



Some creams and antiseptics are safe to use. A mild cortisone cream is sometimes useful for small areas of redness on the skin. Eye creams should not be used as they may mask an eye injury that needs urgent attention. Artificial tears are safe to use to flush out and clean and eye until they can be assessed by a vet.

Beware of herbal /natural preparations. Some are extremely toxic to dogs. For example, a few drops of tea tree oil when licked off the skin can cause staggering.

If you have any concerns about the suitability of medication for pets please call and ask for advice.

Footy Update after Rnd 19...

Shannon has made his way clear on top, but the pressure is on those behind him to secure a spot in the top 3 over the few remaining rounds!

1.	Shannon	117	6.	Peter D	107
2.	Scott W	111	7.	Cindy	106
3.	Tom	111	8.	Josh	106
4.	Colin	109	9.	Nathan	106
5.	Lynda	107	10.	Tigga	106