

**August
2017**

Rhodes Vet Clinic

**Volume 7
Issue 8**

Newsletter

Glaucoma

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Yes Glaucoma does happen in any animal with eyes. This shows often as a very swollen, inflamed eye. The eye is noticeably larger in size.

Glaucoma occurs when the little gateways leading out from the interior of the eye become blocked. This blockage can be due to an infection, a tumour or trauma. The fluid then builds up and so like a balloon, it begins to swell up the eye.

Glaucoma is very painful to the animal. The animal does not like bright lights, nor does it like being touched.

Without swift treatment the eye pressure increases so much that it causes damage to the optic nerve and subsequent blindness. If glaucoma is left untreated eye removal is the only option.



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

Colostrum

What is it?

It is the first milk produced by the cow each lactation. It is far more energy and nutrient dense than normal milk. It contains antibodies against which ever diseases the cow is immune.

Who cares?

A calf's immune system is "immature" and doesn't know how to fight disease effectively. The only way they acquire immunity to disease is via maternal antibodies from the cow.

Cows do not transfer immunity (antibodies) to their calves whilst they are in the womb. The only way that calves get antibodies is via colostrum. You have to get enough antibodies out of the cow and into the calf to protect it for the first months of life and thus colostrum really is liquid gold.

When?

Colostrum starts getting produced about 5 weeks out from calving and stops at calving. Once the cow has calved, normal milk production starts and the colostrum begins to dilute. The sooner after calving you collect the colostrum the better!

Calves guts will absorb antibodies for the first 24 hours of life. However absorption is far better immediately after birth than after the first 12 hours. The sooner you can get the first feed (2L) of colostrum into the calf the more effective it will be. Repeat 6 hours later.

Quality?

If you're going to bother to feed it then please check that its worth feeding. Get a refractometer (we can get you one or try the feed store) or a colostrometer. Heifers generally have poorer quality colostrum than older cows. Remember quality begins to decline after calving so use first milking colostrum only. Do not pool colostrum for feeding in the first 24 hours.

Before you put the test bucket on her, collect a little milk, put a drop on your refractometer and check it. If it reads above 22 then use it. If it is below 22 it's not worth bothering with. The poor quality colostrum and that from milking's 2-8 post calving is still suitable for feeding to calves older than 24 hours as it is very energy dense.

Vaccines can be used to get the cow to generate antibodies against certain diseases that are of particular concern in the calf's first few weeks of life such as: E. coli, rotavirus, coronavirus, clostridial diseases and salmonella.

More info:

<http://www.dairyaustralia.com.au/Animal-management/Animal-welfare/Calf-welfare/Rearing-healthy-calves-manual.aspx>

We also have some free brochures available at the Clinic.

Feel free to ring us to discuss your system 5232 2111

