

**December
2015**

Rhodes Vet Clinic



**Volume 5
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Newsletter

Rhodes Veterinary Clinic
74 Gellibrand Street
COLAC 3250
P: 03 5232 2111
F: 03 5231 5892
E: info@rhodesvet.com.au

Veterinarians:

Dr Michael Rhodes
Dr Cate Watt
Dr Jess Thomas

Practice Manager:

Cindy Schoell

Nurses:

Kirsty Paton
Sharon Earnshaw
Kaylene Swayn
Christine Burgin

What NOT to feed your dog at Christmas!

At Christmas time with all the parties there are so many opportunities for your pet to get the wrong kind of snacks. Please do not feed or allow access to:

- BBQ left overs (especially sausages)
- Onions
- Cakes/desserts
- Christmas cake (especially the icing)
- the Fat off the Christmas ham
- Corn cobs
- the tray that catches the fat off the BBQ
- Chocolate
- Cooked bones
- Other fatty foods
- Alcohol



These foods often cause abdominal pain and vomiting. For mild cases you may be able to just fast your pet for 12 hours and they will recover without veterinary treatment. For persistent vomiting or inappetence veterinary treatment may be necessary. They sometimes require an intravenous drip.

Please be very diligent about what your pets eat over the holiday period so we can all enjoy Christmas without the stress of having unwell pets.

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



**Management & Staff of
Rhodes Veterinary Clinic
wish all our valued clients
a very Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year.**

**We thank you for you
patronage and look forward to
seeing you again in 2016!**

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

Heat Stress

Animals just like us, can suffer from heat stress and stroke in the summer months. They are easy to pick if it's a bloody hot day and there is no water available. They will be the dead ones around the trough or you will notice your vat is not full of milk!

Cows are comfortable between 5 and 25°C. Outside of this range they must begin to compensate so as to maintain their body temperature within the normal range. Cattle who are lactating or eating a large amount of roughage will generate more heat and struggle to lose heat. Thus the large framed black dairy cow who is lactating is at far more risk of heat stress and other problems associated with reduced appetite than a yearling heifer calf. During periods of heat stress water intake may increase by up to 50% to compensate for losses due to panting. Where temperatures are persistently over 30°C the diet should contain at least 125grams salt/head/day and potassium should be at least 1.5% of the ration DM to accommodate the increased losses of body fluids.

The provision of shade is critical especially on those 40°C days, and it goes without saying that on those hot days management procedures should be avoided or every effort made to do them at cooler times of day, ensuring that stock always have access to water and shade. It is also important to ensure that adequate quantities of clean fresh water are readily available, keeping in mind that if the water temperature is too hot some animals will choose not to drink sufficient amounts. Smaller water troughs in full sun tend to heat up faster than larger vessels in the shade, equally exposed piping in full sun will supply water at a higher temperature than pipes that are buried. Feed type and quality, weather conditions, available shelter, exercise level, water quality and age, pregnancy and lactation status will affect water intake. Water sprinklers can be of great use to reduce body temperature where there is a covered milking yard provided there is adequate air flow. If cows are cooled prior to entering the bail this can help increase appetite.



December Special on Flea Products
20% off when you mention this promotion!
Stock up for the summer months!

