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Rhodes Vet Clinic

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Newsletter

Fodder Poisoning

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Ruminants are affected by poisoning with brassica species
eg rape (canola), kale and turnip.

These plants are more toxic as they mature and when secondary
growth begins; the flowers and seeds are particularly poisonous.

The toxicity of the plants varies from year to year, with rape
poisoning occurring when the year is wet. Beware of sudden
regrowth after an autumn break. Look for a change in leaf colour
going from a green to a purple hue.

The signs of fodder poisoning can be agitation and kicking at the
body (fire fever like signs), rapidity of breath and breathlessness,
wobbly on feet and not wanting to move, pale gums and pale
vaginal mucosa.

Simple control of fodder amount will stop any symptoms. Ensure
that the animals are getting adequate dry matter before being put
on to the crop. Do not place your yearlings solely onto crops to
clean them up after the herd has been through.

Beware of rapid regrowth after rain. Please call your
Vet immediately if your notice these signs.



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

**** Please note that we have reduced our opening days in Simpson until further notice ****

Liver Disease

Problems with the liver in pets are common and have many different causes.

Young animals can be born with a condition called congenital portosystemic shunt. Puppies or kittens with this condition often fail to thrive when they start on solid food. They may have poor appetite, vomiting and diarrhoea. They will often show neurological signs such as seizures and blindness. Some pets may be able to be helped with specialist surgery to correct the defect.

Hepatitis or liver inflammation can occur at any age from a number of different causes. We have had some serious cases where a pet has gotten into something rotting or garbage and become very ill with hepatitis. These pets often require an extended period of hospitalisation and intravenous fluids. Some make a complete recovery and others have caused permanent injury to the liver which needs to be managed with a special diet.

Most often we see older pets with liver problems. Sometimes this is detected on routine blood tests performed before general anaesthesia. When it is picked up early the pets often do quite well when put onto a prescription diet for liver problems. This has low protein and is packed full of extra vitamins to ease the burden on the liver. Obesity is a risk factor for hepatic lipidosis (fatty liver) and this condition is well managed with dietary change. The pets are much more active and healthy once this condition is rectified.

Signs that are sometimes seen in patients with liver disease are:

- jaundice (a yellow colouring in the whites of the eyes)
- swollen abdomen (bloaty looking)
- excessive drinking and urinating
- poor appetite
- vomiting, diarrhoea
- nervous signs in advanced cases (seizures, blindness)

Liver cancer is unfortunately something that we see fairly often in older pets. There is little that can be done for them but keep them comfortable and try to get them to eat the liver diet.



Calving Aid (Calving jack)

Dr Niall has no further use for the calving aid that he purchased new when he was with us. It is for sale for \$350 if anyone is interested.