

**Febraury
2016**

Rhodes Vet Clinic

**Volume 7
Issue 1**

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

Mineral Drench

The makeup of our mineral drench is changing because the selenium product that we used in the drench has been removed from the market and there is no suitable alternative available.

The drench itself will continue to contain copper and cobalt, but the selenium will need to be supplied by a pour-on or injectable product, either of which we can supply you.

When and why to use mineral drench? In this district much of the soil is copper, cobalt or selenium deficient to varying degrees. These are essential minerals to stock, especially young stock and deficiencies can cause multiple problems from ill thrift to reproductive problems to white muscle disease.

Black cattle will typically develop a brown tinged coat before more serious problems arise. However this is not always the case. We would advise that all stock are given a dose of mineral drench at their yearly vaccination and again 2-3 weeks prior to calving / lambing.

It is advisable with sheep to check what other products you are using contain selenium (eg wormers, vaccines) as overdose is as fatal as deficiency.

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us!



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**

Common Back problems found in our pets

Intervertebral disc disease (“slipped disc”) is where the disc between the vertebrae pushes up on the spinal cord. In the most serious cases the dog will become paralysed in the back legs and have no feeling in the toes at all. In less serious cases toes may just be dragging or scuffing.

Diagnosis may be possible with x-rays but in less serious cases there may not be anything obvious on the x-ray. Paralysed dogs often require referral for specialist spinal surgery. Less serious cases often improve with cortisone treatment. Intervertebral disc disease is more common in the “long backed” dogs, especially those that are overweight. Dogs of any age may present with this problem.



Degenerative myelopathy is a common but less serious problem, generally occurring only in older dogs. It is particularly common in German Shepherds.

Affected dogs often knuckle in the hind legs as the messages are slow to travel down to the back legs and this causes them to be slow. This is a non-painful condition and usually very slowly progressive. There are no effective treatments.

Spinal arthritis is common in older dogs and affects their mobility. They can have trouble getting up and down and be reluctant to jump. It can be quite painful. There are several treatments that help including Pentosan injections, anti-inflammatories and acupuncture.

Weight control and regular exercise are an important aspect to managing back problems. If you think your pet has a back problem, then please seek treatment early as back problems can progress to be very serious and cause paralysis.

Footy is back next month!



Join us in our weekly tipping competition for the AFL season which begins soon!

Tips must be either emailed (cindy@rhodesvet.com.au) faxed (5231 5892) or delivered to the clinic by 5pm on the day of the first game of each round.

If tips are not received by the closing time you will receive the week's lowest tipping result less one point. Tips will not be accepted by telephone.

We will accept several entries from each house if more than one person wishes to participate just ensure the tips are named.

The leader board will be emailed out to participants weekly.

Please advise us ASAP if you wish to participate.