

**July  
2013**

# Rhodes Vet Clinic

**Volume 3  
Issue 7**

**Newsletter**

Rhodes Veterinary Clinic  
74 Gellibrand Street  
COLAC 3250  
P: 03 5232 2111  
F: 03 5231 5892  
E: rhodesvet-dsl@pacific.net.au

#### **Veterinarians:**

Dr Michael Rhodes  
Dr Cate Watt  
Dr Andrew Stanley

#### **Practice Manager:**

Cindy Schoell

#### **Nurses:**

Kirsty Paton  
Lauren Price

#### **Simpson:**

Christine Burgin  
Kim Henderson

#### **We provide:**

- Surgery & Medicine for small and large animals
- Soft Tissue & Orthopaedic Surgery
- Dentistry
- Digital X-ray
- Ultrasound
- In House Blood Testing
- Nutrition & Prescription Diets
- Microchip Identification

## **Accidental poisoning of dogs on farm**

Dogs will eat all kinds of unlikely things. In fact, the more disgusting the better. This means there is a real risk of poisoning on the average farm, where there are many potential poisons.

The following are common poisons of farm dogs:

Anticoagulants- such as Talon and other brands of rat/mouse poison. Signs (weakness, pale gums, bleeding) may not develop until a week after eating the poison.

Organophosphates- such as those used in snail and slug baits. Last week we had a dog come in to the clinic fitting and overheating. He had been poisoned by having contact with slug bait in seed. He hadn't been eating it but had his nose in there looking for mice! Without rapid emergency treatment he would have died.

Ethylene glycol (coolant/ antifreeze) - has a sweet taste and dogs and cats may lick it from the puddles under vehicles. Initially the pet will be vomiting but often progresses to serious kidney problems.

Treated pine wood shavings- we have had a number of dogs that have eaten shavings from calf sheds (accidentally ingested while eating delicious calf faeces) They have been staggering and depressed and needed intravenous fluids and several days stay in hospital.

Rumensin is an additive in cow feed and in some milk replacers. We had two farm dogs poisoned earlier this month after drinking milk replacer. The bag did carry a warning "harmful to dogs". The dogs were bloating, drooling, lethargic and had dilated pupils. They made a full recovery after intravenous fluids and hospitalisation.

If you think your dog has ingested a poison and less than an hour has passed, you should make it vomit as soon as possible.

If you are not close to the vet clinic you may try drenching the dog with strong salty water or giving the dog a large washing soda crystal. Then contact the vet clinic immediately for further advice.



#### **Simpson Office:**

Our Simpson Office is open  
Monday to 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

Our emergency number is:

**5232 2111**

We are available 24/7 for emergencies

## Digital X-Ray



We are very excited to announce that we have installed a sophisticated new piece of equipment, a Computed Radiography (CR) system that will enable us to process x-rays digitally. Digital X-Ray processing allows us the ability to produce higher quality pictures for better diagnostics.

This system uses similar equipment to conventional x-rays except that in place of a film to create the image, a phosphor imaging plate is used. Hence instead of taking an exposed film into a darkroom for developing in chemical tanks or an automatic film processor, the imaging plate is run through a special laser scanner or CR reader that reads and digitalises the image.

The digital image can then be viewed and enhanced using software so the image can be enhanced with contrast, brightness, filtration and zoom.

The advantages of using this new technology are:

- Lower doses of radiation
- Higher quality images
- Images available very quickly (usually less than 15 sec)
- Images can be enhanced digitally to aid in interpretation

Our Digital X-Ray machine also has the ability to burn the picture to a CD or email to referral specialists with ease. These digital images are also used in consult with the veterinarian to help visually explain your pet's condition on x-ray.

The storage of digital x-rays is far more reliable than the older film processing technique and means your pets images will be kept on record for life without the fear of damage or misplacement.

We are looking forward to this new technology enhancing our diagnostic abilities.



### Footy Tipping!

We have just completed Round 14 of the AFL season.

Our current ladder leader is still Josh sitting on 92 points.

Present this SHOP A DOCKET® offer and receive

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**Desexing & Vaccinations**

**Rhodes Veterinary Clinic**

24 HRS EMERGENCY SERVICE

**PH: 5232 2111** Mon-Fri 8.30am-6pm  
74 Gellibrand St COLAC Sat 9am-Noon