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Rhodes Vet Clinic

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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

Practice Manager:

Cindy Schoell

Nurses:

Kirsty Paton
Sharon Earnshaw
Kaylene Swayn

Simpson:

Christine Burgin

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

Pyometra

Pyometra is a condition that occurs in female dogs that have not been desexed. This is a serious and life threatening problem. Pyometra means “a uterus filled with pus”. While a female dog is in season there is an opportunity for infection to enter the reproductive system. This can occur whether the dog is mated or not. With each season that the dog completes her chance of pyometra increases. It is most commonly seen in those over 4 years old but occasionally is a dog as young as one year old.

The dog usually starts to show symptoms approximately two weeks after her season finishes. She may be lethargic, off her food, vomiting or drinking a lot of water. Often the symptoms are quite non-specific and can mimic other problems like gastro, kidney problems or even pregnancy. Sometimes they will be swollen in the belly or have a pus discharge from the vulva.

The only treatment for pyometra is emergency surgery to desex the dog and remove the uterus filled with pus. The uterus is at risk of bursting due to this condition and a rupture will cause death. Careful removal is essential to prevent any leaking of the pus into the abdomen. The dog will usually also require intravenous fluids and antibiotics and a short stay in hospital.

The best way to prevent this problem is early desexing of female dogs. If you choose to breed from your dog then plan to have her desexed as soon as you are finished breeding with her. There are also other benefits of desexing by preventing other health problems.



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

Rough Dog's Tail

UPDATE:

Can you remember or is it more like I cannot forget, the local case where 30 cows all died in one day with many more being very sick for a long time?

The disease they died from was Acute Bovine Liver Disease (ABLD). At the time no one could give an answer as to what caused this catastrophe. Samples of everything were taken by the DEPI and sent away for some very fancy laboratory work.

It appears from this work that the MOST likely culprit is an unknown fungus that grow on a pasture weed called Rough Dog's Tail

Rough Dog's Tail is a tufted grass 1 metre tall with leaves 20cm long and 2-10cm wide, tapering to a fine point. This invasive weed grows in degraded pasture.

It is on this plant that fungus grows and produces a toxin. When this toxin is ingested it causes massive liver dysfunction which ultimately causes rapid death.

At this point of the investigation there is no treatment available to save the cow but focus on the pasture control. This fungus appears in the autumn on a nasty weed that grows in run down paddocks.

If you see this weed start to grow in your sacrifice paddocks avoid feeding hay or silage to your cattle on these areas.

When more information becomes available I will update you further. In the mean time keep your eyes open for Rough Dog's Tail (NO.. Not your pets!!)

