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# Rhodes Vet Clinic

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**Newsletter**

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## Geriatric Vestibular Syndrome (GVS)

GVS is a common occurrence in older dogs. It is a sudden problem with balance. The dogs are often falling over to one side, circling one way, disorientated and have a head tilt and irregular eye movements. This sudden onset may also be preceded or accompanied by nausea and vomiting.

The abnormal eye movement is present in the early stages and is called nystagmus. This is where the eyes flicker side to side in the opposite direction to the head tilt. Severe ear infections can be similar when they affect the nerve that runs through the inner ear. A veterinary check up will determine if the symptoms are GVS or are related to another health problem.

The sudden onset and severity can be very stressful for the dog and the owners. Owners often think that "this is the end" of their old dog. Fortunately most of the dogs presenting with these signs will go on to make a full recovery. Usually there is a rapid improvements in the first 12-24 hours then full recovery. Some dogs require hospitalisation as they are distressed and need some sedation. Many will recover with some nursing and TLC at home for a few days. Generally there is just the one episode but relapses may occur.



### 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

**REMINDER: Please ensure we have your current telephone, address and email details**

**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](http://www.rhodesveterinaryclinic.com.au)

**We are available 24/7  
for emergencies.  
Our emergency number  
is:  
5232 2111**

## Scouring Calves



Common things occur commonly and common causes of calf scours are diet, e.coli, rotavirus, coronavirus, salmonella, cryptosporidium and coccidia. We want your calf poo!! If your calves have the poo's then we need a sample. We have a very handy in-house scours test which takes about 15 minutes and when coupled with knowing age, diet, cow vaccination history, and how the calves are housed will give us an answer in the majority of situations. It is always ideal if we can examine the calves in question to ensure that there are no complicating factors such as pneumonia, draughty pens, high levels of ammonia in pens etc.

### Preventing calf scours:

**Isolation pens.** All sick calves should immediately be removed from contact with the healthy calves to limit spread. They should not share any troughs or be able to touch noses, the further away from the healthy calves the better. Sick calves should be fed/handled last.

**Colostrum.** Bare minimum of 2L of good quality colostrum within the first 12 hours of birth.

**Vaccination.** Cows can be vaccinated against rotavirus, coronavirus, e.coli, salmonella (and IBR- causes pneumonia and death, they may scour just prior to death). Cows should be given initial vaccines 6 and then 2 weeks before calving and in subsequent years a booster should be given 2 weeks prior to calving to ensure optimal antibody levels in colostrum.

**Hygiene.** Clean dry, sheltered but well ventilated pens are a must. If its not clean enough to put a child in, then it is not good enough for a calf and you will end up with problems. No amount of drugs will make up for poor husbandry.

### If you are buying in calves to raise:

DO NOT buy them from yards or calf trucks!

Calves should be sourced from herds that have been vaccinated against calf scours.

Only calves who have received at least 2L of good quality colostrum within the first 12 hours of birth should be purchased.

New calves should be quarantined for at least 2 weeks.

If you are having a disease problem, no new stock should be brought in until it is controlled.



### Hendra Vaccination Update:

Further studies have shown that immunity following the initial vaccination program is protective for a full 12 months. As a result boosters are now only required annually (previously they were required every 6 months). For more information on Hendra virus or to arrange for your horse to be vaccinated please contact the clinic on 5232 2111.