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# Rhodes Vet Clinic

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**Newsletter**

## Antibiotic Residues

Rhodes Veterinary Clinic  
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Using contaminated feeding equipment to feed sale calves is by far the most commonly risk factor reported. A feeder/stomach tube cannot be assured to be clean, even after it is washed out. All farms should have separate and dedicated equipment for feeding sale calves and it should be clearly identified for this purpose only. This also applies to medicating equipment.

Oxytetracycline is the most commonly found antibiotic and contributes to more total residue incidents than any other antibiotic class. This is followed closely by the Sulpha group. It is likely that the recent drop in sulpha residues is associated with the unavailability of Scourban. This has created an opportunity to “wean” farmers off such oral antibiotics and focus attention on better calf rearing. Injectable antibiotics should be preferred over oral preparations and they should be reserved for use in sick calves that do not respond to fluid therapy.  
(Dairy Australia)



### 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**

# Anti-coagulant Poisoning

Dogs love the taste of rat poison. If your dog does eat some of this type of bait he will likely seem quite normal for several days. There will be no frothing at the mouth or convulsions as is seen with other types of poisons. Sometimes you may see some blue or green material in the faeces as evidence that your dog has consumed some of the bait.

Rat or mouse poisons don't affect the nervous system. They are called an anti-coagulant poison, which means they disturb the body's ability to clot blood. These poisons work by inactivating Vitamin K which is essential for blood clotting.

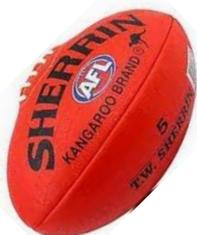
Symptoms include bleeding from anywhere including the nose, gums, bladder, bowel and lungs. Your pet will have pale gums and can be off its food. The pet will be lethargic. These symptoms will usually take 2 to 5 days to show after the poison has been consumed and can be fatal if not rapidly treated. Sometimes owners will notice pink coloured urine which is a sign that there has been bleeding into the bladder. Sometimes there will be a cough that indicates that there has been bleeding into the lungs. However, there are often no obvious signs other than the animal being tired. Products such as Ratsak, Racumin, Tomcat and Talon are highly poisonous!

The poison can continue to be active for up to six weeks in the dog's body. PROMPT veterinary attention is vital. Treatment includes making the dog vomit as soon as possible, blood transfusions and long term supplementation of Vitamin K.

Cats are sometimes poisoned if they have eaten many baited rats/mice. This type of secondary poisoning is not common but may happen when cats consume several mice or rats.

Avoidance of using these poisons is often not possible or practical. The safest way to use them is to have them in heavy duty "bait stations" which are readily available for purchase locally.

**There is no such thing as "pet-safe" bait!  
It is only safe if your pet does not eat it!!**



## Footy Update

We have a 4 way tie at the top after round 6 ....  
Pressure is on Tigga, Shannon, Scott W & Tom

