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Rhodes Vet Clinic

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Newsletter

Rhodes Veterinary Clinic
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Dr Michael Rhodes
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Dr Jess Thomas

Practice Manager:

Cindy Schoell

Nurses:

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Sharon Earnshaw
Kaylene Swayn
Christine Burgin

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

Monitoring Chronic Disease

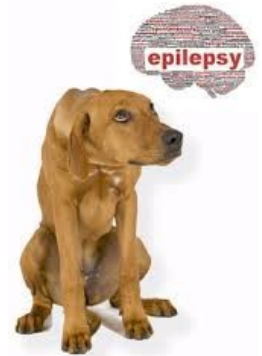
Pets with complex chronic disease need regular monitoring through blood testing. With our new in house pathology machines this is now done very easily. We have many patients on long term medications and prescription diets.

Patients with kidney disease require monitoring of their levels of urea and creatinine in the blood. These levels increase when the kidneys are not functioning properly. Heart patients also often have secondary kidney disease as they are not receiving adequate blood flow through the kidneys.

Patients with liver disease or a toxic injury to the liver often have high levels of liver enzymes in the blood. Monitoring these levels allows us to assess the necessity and effectiveness of prescription liver diets.

Our epileptic patients often need the drug phenobarbitone to control the seizures. We are now able to test the level of drug in the blood using our in house machines. This allows us to adjust the dose of medications accordingly.

In the near future we will also be able to test levels of thyroid hormones in house. This will be a great asset as hyperthyroidism (over active thyroid) is a very common condition in older cats which contributes to weight loss in old age.



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**

Lead Feed: Preventing Milk Fever

With dry season beginning it is important to start planning lead feed to ensure that your cows are processing calcium optimally to prevent milk fever.

Cows get calcium two ways. They reabsorb it from their bones and they absorb it from their gut.

When a cow is in full lactation it is physically impossible for her to get enough calcium from her gut alone. We need to trigger her body to start re-absorbing it from her bones before she calves. It can take a few days for these changes to occur, which is why cows with milk fever often need treating for a few days if they have not had lead feed.



Feeding a lead feed ration will help trigger the body to start reabsorbing calcium from bone. This should be fed for two weeks prior to calving. 40 to 60 grams per head daily of magnesium sulphate ($MgSO_4$, Epsom Salts) is very effective. This can be added to feed, the cows can be drenched or it can be mixed with molasses and poured over hay before it is fed out. Causmag at 50gms / head / day can be used in the same way. Alternatively there are many commercial lead feeds on the market. Your feed supplier should be able to help you select the one that will best suit your farm.



Springer cows should be provided with adlib cereal hay as this increases the amount of chewing and thus saliva which helps maintain the ideal pH of the blood for calcium absorption from bone. It also helps stimulate the rumen so that once she has calved the rumen quickly enlarges reducing the chance of twisted stomachs occurring.

If you feel you are still getting too many cases of milk fever or lead feed related problems please contact us or your nutritionist. Udder oedema is a common issue that is caused by too much protein in the diet coming up to calving. Less than 3% of cows requiring treatment (eg 1 bag of 4 in 1) for milk fever is considered acceptable.

Simpson Clinic

Now that we have Dr Jess located at Simpson we are able to offer bookings at 8am on each weekday, excluding Wednesdays, at the Simpson Clinic

If you need your pets vaccinated or they are unwell please call to book your appointment in Simpson. This may save you a trip to Colac.

Large animal calls are also available from 8am with Dr Jess.



Footy Tipping Ladder

The season has started with lots of ups and downs, with tippers scoring 9 wins one week and then down as low as 1 winning tip the next.

After Round 5 we have the top 5 tippers:

1. Sharon
2. Cindy
3. Kosta
4. Tom
5. Alan