

**May  
2016**

# Rhodes Vet Clinic

**Volume 7  
Issue 5**

**Newsletter**

Rhodes Veterinary Clinic  
74 Gellibrand Street  
COLAC 3250  
P: 03 5232 2111  
F: 03 5231 5892  
E: info@rhodesvet.com.au

**Veterinarians:**

Dr Michael Rhodes  
Dr Cate Watt  
Dr Jess Thomas

**Practice Manager:**

Cindy Schoell

**Nurses:**

Kirsty Paton  
Sharon Earnshaw  
Kaylene Swayn  
Christine Burgin

## The Tsunami is coming!

We have had a very dry Spring, a long dry Summer and Autumn is facing water restrictions. There is little to no green feed, nor dry feed in the paddock. The price of fodder and grain are heading to great heights and the price of milk is going down. That is the good news!

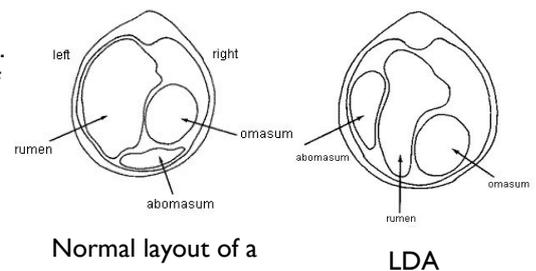
With all these factors occurring I am seeing the results of little fibre and feed. This is manifesting as Left Displaced abomasum's (LDA's). The classic signs occur 10-14 days post calving. She is not eating due to retained foetal membranes, pus, respiratory, nervous acetonaemia and other many good reasons. The cow stops eating and comes into the dairy where she is presented with a great load of grain. She eats this and bingo..... LDA!

It is extremely important that your transition feeding from dry to dairy is spot on and that you have sufficient fibre in the diet pre and post calving. Be aware if the cow is ill in the first week as she will be more likely to LDA in the next seven (7) days. Good luck!

What is an LDA? Keep reading if you are unsure of what an LDA actually is.....

An LDA is also known as a twisted stomach. The abomasum is the 4th stomach of the cow. Normally the Abomasum sits on the bottom of the abdomen, up the front. When a cow has an LDA the abomasum has moved to the left side of the cow, and got stuck there. It then fills with gas as the outflow pipe is stretched which flattens it, effectively blocking it.

Because it is filled with gas the abomasum floats up to the top of the cow which makes matters worse. (RDA, or right displaced abomasum is where it moves to the right side, the same thing happens, but it will often become twisted which is very painful). Both LDA's and RDA's require surgery to deflate the abomasum and put it back in the correct place.



### 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

**Simpson Office:**

Our Simpson Office is open  
Monday, Wednesday, Friday  
10am to 3pm  
P: 03 5594 3257

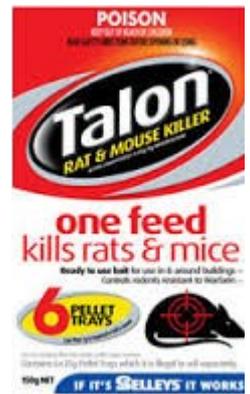
**Colac Office:**

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**



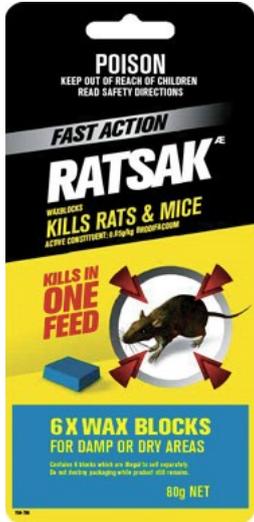
# Baiting Rats!



We have had 5 dogs in hospital in the past week that have eaten rat poisons!

Checking through our Records we have found that this has been a common occurrence in May over the past 4 years.

## PLEASE KEEP THESE POISONS AWAY FROM YOUR PETS!



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.



## Footy Ladder Update:

An update of the Ladder after Round 6:

Very close!

1. Tom	42	6. Ray	39
2. Cindy	41	7. Emma	39
3. Janine	40	8. Kosta	39
4. Megan	40	9. Scott W	39
5. Nathan	40	10. Josh	39

