

**November  
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# Rhodes Vet Clinic

**Volume 2  
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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  
Lauren Price

**Simpson:**

Christine Burgin  
Kim Henderson

## Strep Uberis

Strep Uberis this month has been the number one cause of mastitis. It is a major pathogen that causes sub clinical and clinical mastitis.

It is passed in the faeces of cattle and can survive for up to 2 weeks in fresh manure or faecal contaminated mud or straw. It is an environmental pathogen because the cows are likely to develop intra mammary infections if their udders come into contact with the above material, especially if they have damaged teat skin or open teat ends. The cow is especially susceptible in the hour immediately after milking.

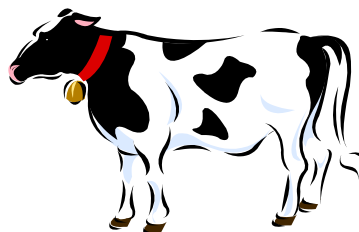
Note that as most cows are likely to be regularly exposed to Strep Uberis in the environment, mastitis management should aim to reduce the likelihood of cows becoming infected rather than eliminate the infection from the herd. Thus in mid lactation cows it is important that teat cups are put on clean, DRY teats and to minimise the susceptible cows exposure to high traffic areas.

Most Strep infections are susceptible to cloxacillin and cephalosporin intra mammary and injectables but they will not work alone.

A post milking teat disinfection is really important in helping to reduce the spread. Use a teat spray that contains an emollient and is ready to use (to reduce water quality fluctuations). Ensure you give each teat adequate coverage, eg 20ml per cow per milking.

If the dairy has automatic teat sprayers consider switching to hand spraying when conditions are wet or muddy.

Isolate and treat the cow will reduce the chance of infection spreading to other cows. If the cow is a persistent infector then move to the ultimate treatment—CULL!



### Clinic Hours:

**Simpson Office:**

Our Simpson Office is open  
Monday to 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

Sunday 11am to 12 noon

We are available 24/7 for emergencies.

Our emergency number is:

**5232 2111**

### 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

## Grass Seeds

It won't be long before we are finding grass seeds in all kinds of places! Dogs with long coats are particularly prone to picking up grass seeds.

Most commonly we remove them from between the toes. We also find them in eyes and ears frequently.

Grass seeds are able to migrate long distances through the tissues. They may enter in between the toes then end up in the groin area. Their migration necessitates dealing with them as soon as you are suspicious that your dog may have picked up a grass seed. Often dogs are lame or licking their feet excessively if

A sore eye for any reason should always be treated as an emergency. Grass seeds often rub on the eye and cause a corneal ulcer which needs rapid investigation and diligent treatment.

Grass seeds in ears usually cause sudden and excessive head shaking. They may rupture the ear drum and need ongoing treatment after the grass seed is removed. Your dog is likely to need sedation for removing grass seeds.

Prevention involves clipping the feet and ears and trying to keep your dog from investigating areas that are full of grass seeds.

If you notice head shaking, a sore eye, lameness, foot licking or any or small weeping sore anywhere on the body then please make an appointment to check for grass seeds.

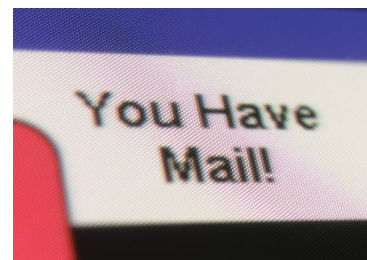


## Mobile Telephone Numbers and Emails



Processes are in motion to upgrade our veterinary computer programme. We will soon be able to offer reminders for vaccination, worming, flea control and other appointments by contacting you either by email or SMS message to your mobile phone.

Before we can do this we MUST have the correct details in our computer system. When you are in the Clinic next please advise our front desk staff of your current mobile and email details. Alternatively you can send these details to us by fax or email.



## Newsletters

Want to look up a topic you have seen on a Rhodes Veterinary Clinic Newsletter?

Earlier copies of our Newsletters can be found on our website at

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

and then under the NEWSLETTER icon.