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Rhodes Vet Clinic

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Newsletter

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PREGNANCY TESTING CATTLE

WHY? WHEN?

Pregnancy testing allows for more efficient utilisation of available feed, labour and informed management decisions.

When to test?

This depends on how much information you are after. If you are wanting to find out if they are pregnant to AI or to the bull, cows should be between 6-8 weeks pregnant to get the most accurate date of pregnancy. Once they are over 6 months pregnant aging of the foetus becomes far less accurate.

How to test?

Milk sampling for pregnancy by measuring the level of progesterone in the milk has become very popular. This is for a very good reason because of its ease of use. Unfortunately there is a down side. It cannot tell you how far along the cow gestation is. This method also as a fair percentage of false negatives.



Another method of checking pregnancy is with a rectal scanner. This can detect pregnancy less than six weeks. The down side of this method is that it is not reliable if the cow is greater than twelve weeks and useless after 20 weeks. If the cow is deemed empty it is then checked by arm to confirm.

The last method is rectal by arm. The tried and true method. Downside to this method is fatigue to the operator and there is a lot more hassle and mess to get the cows in and out of the shed.

Nothing is 100% accurate as all methods of testing have false positives and false negatives attached to them. Before culling any animal based on any of the above testing please get them rechecked!

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**

FLEAS & SKIN PROBLEMS



Now that the weather is warming up we expect to see more cats and dogs with skin problems due to fleas.

These blood sucking parasites cause considerable discomfort for your pet leading to scratching, chewing, biting and restlessness.

Flea bites may also cause "Flea Allergy Dermatitis" which is the most common veterinary skin condition. It is very common for dogs and cats to be allergic to flea bites.

Fleas can also transmit tapeworm to your pet.

Once the weather warms up we can have explosions in the flea population. Two fleas can become 3000 fleas in 6 weeks!

Flea eggs are in the environment everywhere including the park, the beach and in the carpet in your house. The eggs are stimulated to hatch by the vibration of a pet walking past. A vacuum cleaner can have a similar effect and is a good way of reducing the number of flea eggs inside.

The most common place to find fleas is on the rump above the tail.

Often pets with flea allergy are missing hair in this area. Cats often just have many scabs all over their body if they have a flea allergy.

A fine tooth comb is the best way to check for fleas or flea dirt. They can often be hard to find otherwise as they do not spend all their day on the pet. Flea dirt appears like black specks and this is digested blood.



Sometimes the only treatment required is some good quality flea control.

However, there is often skin infection and inflammation as a result of excessive scratching or chewing and other medications are then required.

Please consult our staff for help on how to manage skin problems due to fleas.



STAFF NEWS :



Cindy and her husband, Colin have just returned from holidays. Prior to setting sail on a cruise to the South Pacific they climbed the Sydney Harbour Bridge! A wonderful view when you get to the top!