

**November  
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# Rhodes Vet Clinic

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**Newsletter**

Rhodes Veterinary Clinic  
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## Baits and Snakes

Just a reminder that there is, despite the advertising, NO such thing as pet safe baits!  
( You may need to eat more of them to get a lethal dose, but they will still kill your pet!)

Rat bait:

This bait binds Vitamin K so that your pet can not make more clotting factors and once they run out of clotting factors they can't clot their blood and get bleeds. This can rapidly lead to death.



It can take up to 2 weeks to see symptoms (depends how quickly they use up their existing factors). Symptoms directly relate to the blood loss and include: Pale gums, lethargy, drinking a lot, off food, coughing, evidence of bleeds such as blood in vomit, poo, urine, bruises.

The effects of the toxin can last up to 6 weeks depending on brand.  
It is best to make them vomit it up immediately so that they don't absorb the toxin.

If they do absorb it, prompt treatment with Vitamin K +/- blood transfusion is effective.

Basically if you think your pet has eaten rat bait please call us immediately.

Snail bait:

This bait is a neurotoxin which affects the brain.

Symptoms are obvious usually within 20-40 minutes. Death can occur within the hour if a large dose is consumed.



Symptoms vary with amount and type consumed;  
Muscle tremors - aggression/strange behaviour - fitting - fitting and unconscious - death.

It is vital that they are brought in to the clinic immediately. If the bait can be removed from the gut (vomiting and enema) before too much is absorbed, then prognosis is good.



## 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

**Snakes:**

If your pet receives a full dose of venom then you will see symptoms within 20 minutes and death can occur within an hour.

Prompt treatment with antivenin is required.

Dilated pupils that are unresponsive to light is usually the first symptom.

We would rather see your pet for a false alarm than too late - if in doubt bring it in.

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

**We are available 24/7  
for emergencies.  
Our emergency number  
is:**

**5232 2111**

## Cattle Worming—Beef & Dairy

When do you or should you worm your cows?

### Beef Cows:

Generally we recommend worming them twice a year, ideally at the beginning and end of Summer

1. Around harvest time when the grass is all drying off, the drench will kill off the worms in the cow and they can be put into a post harvest paddock (clean pasture).
2. The second drench should be in February / March and this will clean out any residual worms in the cows whilst the sun / heat is still killing off any eggs / larva on the pastures. Ensure you do this before the Autumn break



### Dairy Cows:

Dairy cows can be a little bit trickier due to the milk withhold on many drenching products.

Due to the continuous paddock rotation of most dairy systems cows rarely graze “contaminated” pastures and so dairy farmers will generally get away with only drenching their cattle once a year at dry off.

### All Cattle:

Ideally FEC (faecal egg counts) or blood pepsinogen tests would be done to decide if drenching is required. If you feel that you need to drench more/less often than advised then we would definitely recommend that you do a test. Knowing that you can skip a drenching is far better than finding out the hard way that you really should have drenched your cattle.

Please feel free to call us to discuss your drenching programmes



We were very fortunate to recently have Dr Jen and Dr Andrew from Scotland with us. They had a brief stopover in the western district before continuing on a working holiday around this wonderful country of ours. Thank you to you both! We are sorry to see you depart. Happy Travels!

Cleaning out our shelves this week and we came across these pictures....  
We THINK it is someone you may know!!  
(apologies for the quality of the pics .. From an old Newspaper)

