

**October  
2017**

# Rhodes Vet Clinic

**Volume 7  
Issue 10**

**Newsletter**

## Spring is Puppy & Kitten Season

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

### Veterinarians:

Dr Michael Rhodes  
Dr Jess Thomas

### Practice Manager:

Cindy Schoell

### Nurses:

Kirsty Paton  
Kaylene Swayn  
Kim Baxter  
Diane O'Keeffe  
Leanne Haslem

Spring is here and with it puppy and kitten season. Adding a new addition to your family is no small decision, and you want to choose the right type of pet to fit into your lifestyle. Forewarned is forearmed as they say. Both the resources below are written in language that is appropriate from an upper primary school reading level - so get the kids onto it! Or you can ask us!

RSPCA have made a great new website which aims to help you figure out what type of dog would best suit you and where to acquire one from:

<http://www.rspcapuppyguide.com.au/>

Agriculture Victoria also have a very informative website covering a much wider range of pets <http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/pets/choosing-a-pet>

**Kittens:** Please keep in mind that cats can and will get pregnant as early as 16 weeks old! If you get a new kitten please either get her desexed before this time or be very sure to keep her locked away from any male cats. It is also important to desex males or keep them indoors as they are equally responsible for all the homeless kittens.

Fun facts about cat reproduction:

- # When a cat is 'on heat' she is receptive to males and will show mating behaviour. Typical behaviours include: rolling, rubbing against objects, kneading with her back feet, and yowling repeatedly and loudly.
- # She will generally have 2-3 heat cycles during breeding season (spring). They can last for 3-20 days at 10-40 day intervals.
- # Cats are induced ovulators. This means that they do not ovulate (release an egg from the ovary) unless they are mated.
- # Once she has been mated her heat will stop.
- # Cats are pregnant for 2 months or 60-63 days.
- # On average there are 4 kittens per litter.
- # She can be mated by multiple males during a heat period and so can have kittens to multiple fathers within the one litter.



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

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

**5232 2111**

## Is she Calving? #101 .. At what point is a calving a calving...

Recently we have seen a few cows for calving related distress (theirs and/or their diligent owners) who haven't been quite dilated enough to calve down yet.

So what to do? Ideally pop her in the crush, get lubed up and pop a hand into her vulva just to see what is going on. This can be a bit of an experience until you get a feel of what is normal.

If her cervix is open and the calf is ready to pull, your hand will touch the calf.

If she isn't dilated you will run into the cervix. If it is fully closed you will run into a wall at about elbow depth, or if she is partially dilated you may be able to get a few fingers up to your arm through the cervix. It will feel lumpy compared to the smooth inside of the vagina and uterus.

If you are worried enough about her to be checking her and the cervix is open (you can touch the calf) then now is the time to give her a bit of a hand. Make sure you have two front legs and a head (superman position) or two back legs (preferably belonging to the same calf!). If things aren't coming the right way or the calf seems too big to fit out the hole then now is the time to ring us. If you think the calf is alive and you are not getting anywhere within a few minutes, it is best to seek help sooner rather than later. Mucking around with her for a long while will decrease the chance of getting bub out alive.

If she is not dilated enough then there are two options:

- 1) let her be for a few hours and usually the cervix will dilate and she will begin to calve. Some individuals become a bit uncomfortable (get up and down and look like they are beginning to calve) due to the calf sitting in the pelvis before the cervix has opened.
- 2) Call us and if needed we will give her something to help bring her on. Sometimes hormonal signals are mixed up and things do not happen as they should. Some get stuck half way and a few drugs are needed. Sometimes, especially in heifers, the cervix will only open  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the way and slow gentle application of pressure will stimulate it to fully dilate. There are other times where the cow is seriously uncomfortable and she needs to be induced to maintain her welfare. There can be less common calving issues like the uterus being twisted somewhere between 90 and 360 degrees.

Not everyone will be comfortable checking where a cow is up to, but if you are, give her a quick check before calling us and that will help us to give you the most appropriate assistance we can.



## Footy Tipping 2017

The annual Rhodes Veterinary Clinic AFL Football Tipping has come to a close for another year!

Thank you to all who participated in the weekly fun and congratulations to the prize winners:

Cate Scott W

Nathan Lili Kosta

