

**September  
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# Rhodes Vet Clinic

**Volume 4  
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**Newsletter**

Rhodes Veterinary Clinic  
74 Gellibrand Street  
COLAC 3250  
P: 03 5232 2111  
F: 03 5231 5892

**Veterinarians:**

Dr Michael Rhodes  
Dr Cate Watt

**Practice Manager:**

Cindy Schoell

**Nurses:**

Kirsty Paton  
Sharon Earnshaw  
Kaylene Swayn  
Christine Burgin

## Bladder Stones

We have recently had a few interesting cases of bladder stones. The stones are crystals made up of certain minerals. The stones are usually removed surgically. We send the stones away to the USA for analysis so we can best make a plan to prevent further problems.

Clinical signs of bladder stones include:

- Straining to pass urine
- Difficult slow urination
- Pain when urinating
- Frequent attempts to urinate
- Abdominal discomfort
- Incontinence
- Blood in the urine

Factors that pre-dispose a pet to bladder stones:

- Urinary tract Infection
- Diets high in minerals such as calcium, phosphorus & magnesium
- Low water intake
- Breed (esp. Mini Schnauzers, Dalmatians, Yorkshire Terriers, Bulldogs)
- Gender (struvite crystals are more common in bitches and other types in males)



The first step in diagnosis is getting a fresh urine sample. It will then detect if there is blood, excess protein or infection. The next step is x-rays. Some stones will show up very well on x-rays but some will not. Air injected into the bladder will sometimes help to visualise stones.

Once the stones are removed and analysed we can formulate a plan to prevent further reoccurrence. Often this is done with prescription diets or urinary acidifier tablets. Close monitoring of urine pH and regular checking for infection is usually necessary.



If you notice your pet has any problems with urination it should be attended to rapidly as early detection of problems has the best long term outcome.

### 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

**Simpson Office:**

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

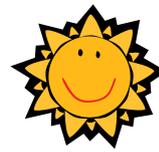
**Colac Office:**

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**



# Winter to Spring



## Spraying Teats

We have moved from Winter to Spring according to the calendar! Meanwhile the paddocks have moved from wet to sticky mud and mastitis is on the rise, both Streps and Staphs.

NOW is the time to be vigilant about teat spraying. This is SO important but it is performed NOT very well!

Have you thought about how much teat spray you use daily? Each cow should receive 20ml of spray per milking which is 40ml per day which works out to 4 litres per 100 cows. A 200 litre drum should be finished in 50 days if you are milking 100 cows.

If you are not putting enough spray on you are allowing mastitis to get a kick start.

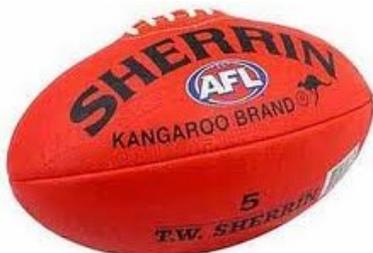
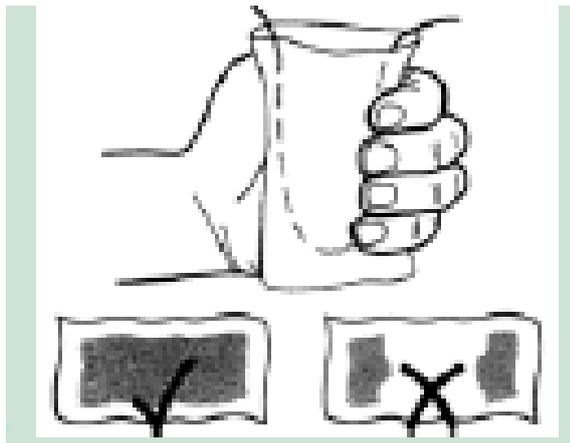


The following TECHNOTE (7) is from Countdown Downunder:

*Careful operators can achieve very good results with teat spraying.*

*Simple checks include:*

- *Examining individual teats of several cows to determine if all sides of the teat barrel are being covered. Wrapping a paper towel around the barrel, then carefully removing and examining the wet or stained area can assist this procedure.*
- *Checking that at least 20ml of prepared teat disinfectant is being used per cow per milking if spraying.*
- *Checking the time in seconds that is needed to apply the correct amount of disinfectant solution. This can be done, for example, by counting the number of seconds required to fill an empty 20ml syringe barrel with spray. This can then be compared with the actual time that operators take to spray each cow.*



**Footy Update: Congratulations Shannon .. Our 2014 Top Tipper! Rest of results will be published next month!**

**GOOD LUCK to all who have teams participating in FINALS FOOTY!**