

**September
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Rhodes Vet Clinic

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Newsletter

Rhodes Veterinary Clinic
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Ear Problems in Pets

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Spring is the time when we see an increase in the number of pets with ear problems. The most common one is itchy ears due to allergies. Red itchy ears can then progress to become an ear infection. Pets may scratch at their ears, shake their heads, hold their head to the side or just have smelly ears.

Sometime these problems can be managed at home with the use of over the counter ear cleaners and antihistamines. For more severe ear problems a veterinary visit and prescription medications may be needed. If your dog is prone to ear infections, regular use of ear cleaners can prevent the need for frequent veterinary visits. If you notice that your dog has smelly ears or there is a discharge then ear cleaning may be necessary.

Yeast infections in the ears are common. You may notice a brown waxy discharge which is a common sign of yeast infections in the ears. It also gives off a "dirty dog" odour. These infections can often be controlled with regular cleaning.

If the ears look red and sore or have a yellow or green discharge then this is a sign of a more serious ear infection. Ear problems such as these need urgent attention. Recurrent ear infections can cause a narrowing of the ear canal and can lead to deafness and chronic infection. Chronic head shaking can also cause a blood blister in the ear that is called an aural haematoma. Surgery is often required to drain the ear.

Ear mites often cause a black discharge in the ears and are mostly seen in young kittens and puppies. Ear mites are easily treated with several products available both over the counter and by prescription.

Please feel free to discuss ear problems and the available medications with our staff. Sometimes we can help with over the counter medications but in other cases a veterinary consultation will be necessary.



We provide:

- Surgery & Medicine for small and large animals
- 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 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

Our emergency number is:

5232 2111

We are available 24/7 for emergencies

Prescription Medicines

Ever wondered why some medicines need to be cleared by the Veterinarian and other can be issued over the counter? Here are some definitions taken from the Dept. of Environment & Primary Industries website:

'Over-the-counter' products are veterinary chemicals that can be readily purchased from most veterinary chemical retailers and rural merchandise stores. Examples include vaccines, worm drenches and lice treatments. By law, farmers treating major species (i.e. cattle, sheep, pigs or chickens) with an 'over-the-counter' product must use a product that is registered for the intended purpose, or obtain written authorization from a veterinary practitioner to use the product contrary to the label directions.

'Prescription animal remedy' products, such as antibiotics, are legally available only from a veterinarian for animals under his/her care. These products must only be used according to the directions provided by the dispensing veterinarian. A 'prescription animal remedy' dispensed for one purpose **cannot** be used for any other purpose without the written permission of the veterinarian.

A veterinarian **cannot** dispense 'prescription animal remedy' products to treat animals unless the client is a bona fide client with proven records, the veterinarian has established a therapeutic need & the veterinarian has responsibility for and current knowledge of the health of the animal/s.



A **withholding period (WHP)** is the minimum time that **must** elapse between the last use of a veterinary chemical product and the sale of the treated animal or any produce derived from it (e.g. milk, eggs, honey or wool). All veterinary chemicals intended for use in stock animals have a WHP statement on the product label.

Withholding periods are designed to ensure that food and fibre derived from treated stock animals does not exceed the Australian maximum residue limits (MRLs) when the product is used according to label directions. Where products are used off-label, the veterinary practitioner will provide written advice on the appropriate WHP.

Further information can be obtained from:
www.depi.vic.gov.au/agriculture-and-food/farm-management/chemical-use/veterinary-chemicals



Farewell Andrew...and Jen

Dr Andrew Stanley leaves our practice this month.

We thank Andrew for spending time with us and wish him and Jen a safe trip home.

Footy Tipping!

Thank you to all who joined in the fun of our Football Tipping this year.

Final results:

1st ... Josh

3rd ... Alan

2nd ... Janine

2nd to last ... Glenn

Enjoy the finals and we will invite everyone to join us again in 2014