

**November  
2019**

# Rhodes Vet Clinic

**Volume 9  
Issue 9**

**Newsletter**

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## Allergy Season

Allergy season is upon us!

Dogs are the pets that are often presented with an uncontrollable itch that drives the dog and his/her owner to drink!

You have treated for fleas, and have regularly washed your dog and yet the beast is still scratching or chewing its feet, front paws or belly.

This type of itch is known as contact allergy. The dog has come into contact with an allergenic protein that has caused the dog's immune system to go into overdrive and this sends out a message to the dog's brain .. Scratch me!

This is similar to hay fever in humans except we get red eyes and a runny nose.

The proteins are usually associated with growing, blooming, fruiting, seeding plants. The worst of which is our lawns, particularly lawns with kikuyu, buffalo, couch and tall fescue grasses in them.

The succulent plants also affect the dog. Oh and did I mention the pollens and acacia plants? Now you are getting the idea why this time of the year is bad and our dogs are really itchy.

The treatment for the dog requires a visit to the Vet. A simple antihistamine at this time of the year often does not work. More dramatic measures are required to manage the acute stage and then we move onto long term treatments to manage the chronic stage.

Keep an eye on your pet and attend to the itch before it turns into a severe infected pruritus (skin infection).



### 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 & 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**

## Lice

We are seeing a growing number of horses, cows and goats with hair loss due to lice infestations.

The lovely thing about lice is that it is easily treated but if you have one animal with it then it means you have to treat ALL of your animals..

Lice are very species specific so if you have a horse louse means treating all of your horses.

Equine lice come in two forms, the biting louse (*D equi*) and the sucking louse (*H asini*).

Lice can be transferred from horse to horse by direct contact, shared brushes, blankets and equipment. This is why it is very important to wash all of your gear.

Please note—cattle pour on is NOT recommended for horses as it may cause a severe skin reaction which may result in hair loss.

After treating your horse with lousicide it is important that you retreat the animal around day 10 –20 to break the louse life cycle and stop reinfestation.

There are many lice products on the market and none are more outstanding than the other. There are also many shampoos, powders and washes. It is more important that you use the purchased product correctly and your equipment hygiene is spot on!

Keep your eyes open as you will see the lice clinging to the hair follicle. Grab a magnifying glass and have a closer look as they are amazing little sucking, biting beasts!



Our Practice Manager, Cindy has committed to walk a night time half marathon (21km) on the 7<sup>th</sup> December throughout the CBD of Melbourne to help all Victorians affected by cancer. She will join several thousand people in the 2019 Walking Stars event.

Every year over 34,000 Victorians hear the words “you have cancer”. Thanks in part to generous Victorians, 7 in 10 of them will survive five years after a cancer diagnosis but there’s still so much work to be done.

By supporting Cindy, you’ll be funding ground-breaking cancer research, prevention programs and support services that offer a helping hand to Victorians affected by all types of cancer. If you would like to sponsor Cindy - <https://fundraising.cancervic.org.au/fundraisers/cindyschoell>



We participated in  
PINK UP COLAC

Funds raised for the  
McGrath Breast  
Cancer Foundation

