

**May  
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# Rhodes Vet Clinic

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**Newsletter**

## Does that wound need sutures?

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### **When do you need to worry about that wound on your pet?**

It can be difficult to appreciate the extent of damage under the skin so even with small wounds it's a good idea to get them looked at by the vet.

### **When to bring it in?** Right away

### **Why?**

Shock, pain and infection from the incident that caused the wound likely need addressing. The fresher the wound is, the better the outcome from stitching. Once the wound occurs the edges start to contract down and can start to fester, which means it is then most likely too late to stitch. It then requires the wound edges to heal across which takes a lot longer to heal than if the wound is stitched together. An active infection will delay wound healing, so the sooner we can clean it up and get it on appropriate antimicrobials the better.



### **What if I wait a few days to see how it goes?**

Treating a fresh wound is much simpler (and therefore cheaper) than treating one that has been left for the reasons mentioned above. Old wounds can take weeks, even months to heal if not addressed properly. This means many bandage changes, tablets, vet visits... some of which could've been avoided if promptly treated to start with. Do your pet and wallet a favour and get wounds checked out.

### **Take home message:**

Dog Fights (high levels of wound contamination) should be seen right away (even if it's the middle of the night). Other cleaner wounds we would also prefer to see asap, but definitely within 12 hours.

## Thank you!



We would like to thank you, our Clients, for your patience and understanding as we continue to trade through this COVID 19 pandemic.

Hope you are all coping with the home schooling and all the stay at home rules. Many media reports are beginning to discuss the way out now. In time we will be able to reunite with our friends and families, enjoy that meal out and be able to enjoy a holiday!

In the meantime, STAY SAFE!

### **Simpson Office:**

Please call 5232 2111

Orders will  
be delivered to the  
Simpson Clinic daily

### **Colac Office:**

Our Colac Office is open

Monday to Friday  
8am to 6pm  
Saturday 9am to 12 noon

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

### **We provide:**

- Surgery & Medicine for small and large animals
- Herd Health Advice
- Bull Fertility Testing
- Soft Tissue & Orthopaedic Surgery
- Dentistry
- Digital X-ray
- Ultrasound
- In House Blood Testing
- Nutrition
- Prescription Diets
- Microchip Identification

## Calves and Colostrum

Calves are born without any immunity. The only way they can get immunity for the first 6 weeks of life (When they then start to develop their own immunity) is by absorbing antibodies across their gut lining from mum's colostrum. Absorption is really good for the first 6 hours of life then starts to rapidly decline, by 24 hours it's just about finished. Other than colostrum the only way to get immunity is via a plasma transfusion (expensive, time consuming and still nowhere near as good as good quality colostrum).

You need to get 4L of good quality colostrum into a calf in the first 6-12 hours of life. Ideally 2L straight after birth and 2L two hours later.

Good Quality colostrum: We would recommend that all farms have (and use!) a refractometer to measure colostrum as this is the best way to tell if it is good or not. All you need to do is put a drop onto the refractometer and then look at the reading, if she is over 22% then use the colostrum, if she is under then don't (this can be fed to the older calves).

Ensure all equipment used to handle colostrum is squeaky clean- Bacterial contamination can rapidly degrade the colostrum quality. Bacteria can double in number in as little as 20 minutes at room temperature and bind to the antibodies, inactivating them, resulting in fewer antibodies available to the calf.

Setting cows up to produce good quality colostrum that will protect the calves against the common pathogens that they will come up against in the first 6 weeks of life:

- Pre calving vaccination of cows:
- When? As per the manufacturer's recommendation which differs product to product. Usually a booster approximately 6 weeks before calving. If it is the first time you are pre calving vaccinating/heifers then most products require 2 shots a month apart. The aim is to boost her immunity before colostrum formation starts, which is 5 weeks before calving. Read the label!
- All cows should be 7in1 vaccinated prior to calving (Protection against clostridial diseases for her health as much as the calves and protection against Leptospirosis for all of you- its zoonotic → OHS!)
- We recommend that all farms vaccinate against the most common calf pathogens- E coli, Rota virus and Coronavirus (not COVID 19) and if Salmonella or IBR has been an issue on the farm previously then include these vaccinations in your protocol. If you are unsure, call us.
- Nutrition: Cows need to be receiving adequate nutrition to enable them to produce a healthy calf and adequate good quality colostrum. Their transition (lead feeding) also needs to be on point.
- Dry period of at least 5 weeks. Less than this is likely to decrease colostrum quality.
- Calving ease/bull selection: A hard calving is strongly associated with immediate issues, poor colostrum intake and subsequent disease.

How to check that your program is working?

We can take blood from your calves (48 hours to 1 week old) and measure the protein levels- This will tell us if they have absorbed adequate antibodies from the colostrum. If they have then awesome! If not then we can investigate why failure of passive transfer is occurring. The aim of doing this (in an ideal world every week) is to detect and resolve issues prior to a disease outbreak occurring.

If you don't already have a copy of the Dairy Australia Rearing Healthy Calves Manual download it and have a read:

<https://www.dairyaustralia.com.au/-/media/dairyaustralia/documents/farm/animal-care/animal-welfare/calf-welfare/rearing-healthy-calves-manual-2nd-ed.pdf?la=en&hash=309C907CCA2B3675A78E92AC8D00563D6ABF11B4>

Please contact us to discuss/make a plan for your farm.

## AFL 2020 Season

We wait and see if we will have an 2020 AFL season. If it resumes it will be in a format like nothing we have witnessed before. If they resume we will be in touch to kick our footy tipping competition back into gear . This will give us something else to chat about!



## Newsletter Topics

Is there a topic you would like to see discussed in our Newsletter that we have not covered? Please feel free to send us your suggestions to [info@rhodesvet.com.au](mailto:info@rhodesvet.com.au) and we will do our best to cover them in upcoming editions.

