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Rhodes Vet Clinic

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Newsletter

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Laminitis (Founder) in Horses

Spring has sprung and with the lovely pasture seen in the south west comes a high sugar content in the pasture. Laminitis or founder in horses is the inflammation of the hoof. This results in lameness and hoof pain in our equine friends. We usually notice this when we see our horses standing stretched out with the back feet placed out and constantly shifting weight between the limbs.

Unfortunately, the exact mechanism that causes laminitis is unknown. However, it is understood the main cause is related to the types of sugar in grasses (Equine metabolic syndrome) and some horses are more susceptible than others, particularly ponies and horses with PPID (Cushings). Other causes of laminitis can be due to placing too much weight through a limb for a prolonged time (overload) or secondary to diseases that cause inflammation (Colic, Infections).

Laminitis on top of being painful can also cause poor adherence of the hoof to the underlying bone. This can lead to pedal bone rotation that can break through the hoof or cause ongoing lameness, sometimes leading to euthanasia of horses due to poor quality of life. It is thought that around 7% of all equine euthanasias are related to laminitis.

Animals with laminitis are also likely to have reoccurrence of the disease in the future.

If you suspect laminitis do not hesitate to call us as veterinary intervention can help prevent further consequences. In the meantime lock your horse up in a yard with soft footing and feed a poor quality hay.



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

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

www.rhodesveterinaryclinic.com.au

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

5232 2111

Pyometra - Infected Uterus

There are many reasons to spay your female dog, preventing a life threatening infection in her uterus is one of them. This infection, called a pyometra is unfortunately relatively common in entire bitches. The infection causes pus to fill up her uterus. If this is not detected in time her uterus can get so full that it bursts. This spreads the infection through her entire abdomen causing septic peritonitis.

How do I know my dog has a pyometra?

The initial signs of a pyometra can be subtle. If you are at all concerned about your pet it is always worth getting them checked out by the vet. Typically if your dog has a pyometra she will be not herself, tired, drinking more than normal, off her food and sometimes you may even notice pus from her vulva.

How do we treat it?

To treat the infection in her uterus we need to remove the infection. Surgery to spay her is the mainstay of treatment. However the surgery is trickier than when she is healthier, and therefore much more expensive. These dogs are also often very unwell making them riskier candidates for general anaesthesia. There are many things we need to do to increase their chance of survival, including medications, intravenous fluid therapy and intensive monitoring.

If treatment has been delayed and your dog's uterus has ruptured spreading the infection through her abdomen then the chances of your dog surviving are lower. These dogs need further treatment to try and remove as much of the infection from the abdomen as possible and require prolonged hospitalisation. They are usually in hospital for at least a few days.

Prevention is better than cure

Spaying your dog before she has a chance to develop a pyometra is not only safer for her but it is significantly cheaper for you. All female dogs who are not going to be bred (or have retired from their breeding careers) should be spayed to prevent the life threatening emergency that is a pyometra. If your dog is not spayed then you need to be extra vigilant and ensure you take her to the vet if she is sick so we can detect a pyometra before it ruptures.

