

**September  
2021**

# Rhodes Vet Clinic

**Volume 11  
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**Newsletter**

## Sore Feet

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This month has again been very wet. The outcome of so much water is soggy paddocks and lanes that are washing away allowing the stones and debris to rise to the top. It is this rubbish that is causing a lot of foot damage which in turn leads to lame cows.

Good drainage from your tracks will allow you to manage this problem. It is impossible to roll your tracks but the use of wood chips strategically placed on heavy wear areas will reduce the foot damage. Just remember to repair these tracks or worn parts of the tracks when it does dry out.

To help reduce foot damage the cattle should be walked over or through copper sulphate. It will harden the feet and reduce the bacteria that can cause inflammation and swelling to the feet. The copper sulphate can be spread over a piece of old carpet that is placed on the floor where the cows exit. Remember to have big enough pieces to ensure that all four feet step on the carpet. Foot baths are still very popular. The concentration of copper sulphate should be 10%. Doing this should help reduce the use of antibiotics and therefore reduce milk loss.

If you have a cow that is lame you should lift the affected foot/feet and check for stones trapped between the toes. A large number of feet can be treated with plastic or wooden blocks. These lift the affected toe off the ground and then antibiotics are not needed.

Prevention is far better than the cure!



### We provide:

- Surgery & Medicine for small and large animals
- Herd Health Advice
- Cattle Pregnancy Testing
- Bull Fertility Testing
- Lameness in Cattle
- Equine Consults
- Soft Tissue & Orthopaedic Surgery
- Dentistry
- Digital X-ray
- Ultrasound
- In House Blood Testing
- Nutrition

**Simpson Office:**

Please call 5232 2111

[www.rhodesveterinaryclinic.com.au](http://www.rhodesveterinaryclinic.com.au)

**Colac Office:**

Monday to Friday

8am to 6pm

Saturday 9am to 12 noon

**We are available 24/7  
for emergencies.**

**Our emergency number  
is:**

**5232 2111**

## Whelping Dogs

We are often asked what should be done to a bitch in pup. The gestation of a dog is 63 days. If she has been mated more than once over a few days this will make determining her exact date difficult.

The bitch should be vaccinated and wormed prior to the arrival of her pups.

Vaccinating your dog will allow her to pass on her maternal antibodies to her pups and this will help protect them until they receive their first vaccination.

Worming the bitch will also reduce worm burdens passing from the mother to her pups. If a puppy is infected with worms it is often round worms. An infected puppy will often have a round belly and has not grown as well as its litter mates. Puppies are easily wormed with a liquid wormer and they are treated every two weeks up to 2-3 months of age.



When the bitch whelps she will require an increase in her nutrition as she will be expending a lot of her energy in producing milk for her puppies. It is very important that she has access to good quality food. We often suggest good quality puppy food at this time because it is full of good nutrition. Our new mum should have food available all day allowing her to graze as often as she wants. Please avoid the cheap dog foods because they have insufficient protein, fat, carbohydrates and vitamins. We suggest that you buy the best quality that you can afford.

### ANIMAL FUN FACTS:

- A group of ferrets is called a business
- Koala fingerprints are very close to humans
- A group of owls is called a parliament
- Cows produce more milk when listening to slow music
- Dogs have way fewer taste buds than humans



### RVC 2021 AFL FOOTY TIPPING RESULTS:

We had a very exciting year this year. The ladder was close at both ends for most of the season.

Congratulations to the following 9 winners:

Equal First - Colin & Tim

Equal Second - Sharyn & Cindy & Ellis & Shannon & Scott

Second to Last - Charlie & Kirsty

Thank you to everyone who participated. See you all again next season!