

**November
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Rhodes Vet Clinic

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Newsletter

Vegemite Disease

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Last month low magnesium in the growing grass was a problem. Now it is the lack of Vitamin B1 (Thiamine).

You all know that Vegemite has a lot of thiamine in it. If you have no injectable B1 on hand you can resort to putting 100gm of vegemite into warm water and drench the animal with it.

What are the signs of Vitamin B1 deficiency? The animals look something like cattle with grass tetany. They have a weird stiff and stumbling gait. They usually tend to have their head extended forward. They often fall over and find it hard to gain their feet. The term "they look very drunk" is often said.

The younger the animals tend to show more signs and possible death compared to more mature adults. Young suckling animals can be affected because mum is not able to put Vitamin B1 into the milk in sufficient amounts and they start with odd gaits and may not be able to see.



This month the practice has had a lot of Vitamin B1 deficient animals. It is best to get the animals moved from the paddocks that are causing the problem and placing them on good quality hay to prevent any more animals coming down with it. Affected animals can be treated with Vitamin B1 injection over a number of days to help them come back to normality.

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

- The duck bill platypus does not have a stomach
- A giraffe has such a long tongue it can lick its own ears
- Crows never forget a face
- Goats can see almost 360 degrees around them

**FUN
FACTS**

Simpson Office:
Please call 5232 2111

Colac Office:
Monday to Friday
8am to 6pm

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

Feeding your Puppy & Kitten

The feeding requirements vary depending on several factors including breed type, sex, age and their activity level.

Diet Requirements from Birth to Weaning:

- Birth to ~3-4 weeks: Mother's milks should satisfy their nutritional needs
- 4 weeks onwards: solid food supplement for smooth weaning

Solid food should contain quality nutrients which are balanced and are highly palatable (yummy). Moving to solid foods can cause some changes. They may develop an upset stomach or diarrhoea. If diarrhoea persists longer than 24 hours or is severe, please contact us immediately. We also suggest any feeding changes be done gradually and if possible, over a 4 day period.

PET MINCE IS NOT RECOMMENDED – IT HAS NO NUTRITIONAL VALUE

Puppies and kittens that are not weaned onto an appropriate diet will result in: low blood glucose, reduced weight gains and dehydration. You will not have a thriving cat or dog, instead a lethargic, inappetent and cold puppy. Puppies that were not weaned properly usually present these signs shortly after going to their new home.



Feeding time

- Puppies: Minimum Twice a day
- Kittens: Graze throughout the day

Quality over quantity of food

Premium biscuits offer the best all round diet for growing puppies and kittens. They are developed by veterinary science experts and take into consideration the development of your pet's body including the immune system and vital organs, skin and coat health as well as stool formation (faeces texture, smell and amount). There are several products available offering a small breed or large breed variety.

Puppies and kittens SHOULD NOT be exclusively on a raw food/home-made diet, because they are not nutritionally complete. Raw food/home-made food can be given as treats or given in combination with a commercial puppy/kitten food.

You should provide the best quality pet food that you can afford, however do not feed Pet mince.



The winner of our Pink Up Colac Raffle was Michelle T. Thank you to everyone who supported us. We have forwarded \$261 to the McGrath Foundation



Mention this ad for 20% off all flea treatments until the end of this year. Stock up now for the warmer months.

