

**December
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Rhodes Vet Clinic



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Newsletter

Dry Matter

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Feeding out dry matter when we have an abundance of growing green grass seems not to make much sense. The ability of a ruminant to digest this lush green feed relies heavily on the ability of the animal to make a raft of dry matter in the rumen. Therefore access to hay/straw is very important.

The dry matter is non-digestible and so forms a raft of matter in the rumen. It's on this raft that the symbiotic bacteria living in the rumen can attack and start to break down the grass cellulose and digest the lush grass.



If there is no dry matter in the animal's diet, then the ability of breaking down green grass is lost and it passes through the animal too quickly, resulting in dietary diarrhoea.

How do you know if there is not enough dry matter? In dairy cows, we look at the protein levels in the milk, you will see a drop, as well as a drop in fat levels. In beef cows, they will start to lose weight rapidly, especially if they have calves at foot.

Remember, silage and crops have little dry matter and therefore are too digestible, passing through the animal too quickly.

Take home message is to have dry matter available to ruminants, especially when the grass is green.

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

- A slug has 4 noses
- A snail can sleep for 3 years
- An ostrich's eye is bigger than its brain
- Approximately 3% of the ice in Antarctica glaciers is penguin urine



Simpson Office:

Please call 5232 2111

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

Grass Seeds

Grass seeds can be frustrating for owners and painful for your dogs, especially in late spring and summer. Grass seeds are designed so that they can very easily penetrate through skin or lodge in ears and eyes and migrate throughout the body. The body responds by trying to wall it off and expel it. Within hours of a penetrating grass seed, the body has a strong inflammatory reaction, resulting in pain, swelling, heat, change in behaviour and pus.

Clinical Signs: The immediate signs of grass seed related problems depend on location:

- Ears - Rubbing or scratching ear, redness & painful to touch, shaking head or keeping their head at a tilted angle
- Paws - Redness, inflammation, limping and licking of paws.
- Skin - Swollen, red lump, with blood or pus, continuous licking or grass seed sticking out from skin
- Eyes - Redness, swelling, tears, rubbing the eye and discharge.
- Nose - Sneezing, nasal discharge, pawing nose, difficulty breathing.
- Genitals - Licking at site, difficulty peeing and blood in urine
- Hair - Matted hair
- Lungs & other organs - Loss of appetite, high temperature, vomiting or difficulty breathing



Treatment: You can try to remove the seed with tweezers. If you are unsuccessful, please call the clinic immediately because the seed will bury deeper and can become harder to remove. If a patient is cooperative the grass seed can sometimes be removed during a consultation, as long as it hasn't travelled too deeply into the body. Many dogs will require sedation or a general anaesthetic to allow probing for the seed, especially if the area is painful. Once the grass seed has been removed, the area will be cleaned and the dog will be sent home on antibiotics.

Prevention: There are some ways that you can protect your pet from these sneaky seeds:

1. Be vigilant if you have a long-haired breed or working breed of dog.
2. Prevent your pet from areas of tall grass. Be careful in reserves and paddocks.
3. Ensure all grooming is up to date and that long-hair is clipped.
4. After exercise, take some time to groom your pet and remove any seeds. Focus carefully on their toes, ears, and armpits.
5. Try to stay on top of mowing your own yard every few weeks, as this often is where your pet will pick up their seeds.



Mike, Alyce, Cindy, Kirsty, Kay and Kylie would like to wish all our valued clients and their pets a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

We thank you for your patronage throughout another very tough year and very much look forward to a healthy and prosperous 2022

The Clinic will be closed only for the Public Holidays....

Saturday, 25th December - Christmas Day

Monday, 27th December - Christmas Day Holiday

Tuesday, 28th December - Boxing Day Holiday

Saturday, 1st January - New Year's Day

Monday, 3rd January - New Year's Day Holiday



**We will be available on 5232 2111
for any emergencies.**