

**February
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Rhodes Vet Clinic

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Newsletter

Osteoarthritis

Rhodes Veterinary Clinic
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Osteoarthritis/Arthritis can start to develop in dogs over one year of age. The degenerative change in the joints can be due to breed, weight, size, sustained injury or skeletal abnormality.

Dogs with osteoarthritis may display lameness or favouring of the limbs. They may have reduced mobility - especially after laying down for a period or during cold weather. They often have reduced activity levels and have difficulty raising up or walking up stairs. There can be some pain on palpation or manipulation of the limbs.

Osteoarthritis can be diagnosed with a physical exam and/or radiographs to confirm arthritic changes.

A holistic treatment is needed for the management of osteoarthritis. It can involve pain relief medications, weight loss, sensile exercise (regular low intensity exercise – hydrotherapy). glucosamine & chondroitin joint supplements, omega 3 fatty acids, mobility diets, Acupuncture, anti arthritic injection & physiotherapy. Elevated food bowl, water bowl and beds can also be of some help.

At Rhodes Vet Clinic, we regularly use anti arthritic injections for arthritic dogs. This involves weekly injections for 4 weeks to protect the joint and assist in joint fluid production. After the initial course some dogs may require an injection every couple of weeks, while some only require it every 6 months. If the interval between injections is less than 4 weeks, then it is highly recommended that they make a booking with Dr Mike for some acupuncture as this, in conjunction with the injections, may relieve some of the discomfort.

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

Did you
know?

- **Baby elephants suck their trunks for comfort.**
- **The wood frog spends 7 months of the year frozen.**
- **Octopuses have three hearts.**
- **Honeybees can flap their wings 200 times per second.**

Simpson Office:
Please call 5232 2111

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**

Snake Bite

Armed with curiosity and natural hunting instincts it is not uncommon for our favourite four legged friends to cross paths with a snake, especially during the warmer months of the year.

If you suspect your pet has been bitten by a snake you should immobilise your pet and try to keep him/her as quiet as possible. It is vital that you take your pet to a veterinarian as quickly as possible. The sooner your pet is treated, the better the chance of survival.

Several factors will determine what sort of reaction your pet has to a snake bite. One is the type of snake, as some snakes are more venomous than others. The amount of venom produced may vary depending on the size and maturity of the snake. The site of the snake bite is also important as closer to the heart, the faster the venom will spread. Remember the spread is via the lymphatics not the blood supply.

Snake venom carries a large range of toxins that damage tissues and impair many of the body's vital functions. They attack the nervous system and interfere with the body's clotting mechanisms.

The signs of venomous snake bite are varied. They may show some or all of the following signs:

- Sudden weakness followed by collapse.
- Shaking or twitching of the muscles
- Vomiting.
- Dilated pupils, not responsive to light.
- Blood in the urine.
- Paralysis including paralysis of the respiratory muscles.



Sometimes a pet will initially collapse following a bite and will then appear to recover. This is actually a sign of a lethal dose of venom so you need to get your pet to your Vet immediately. The apparent recovery is soon followed by deterioration in signs.

Your Veterinarian will examine your pet. If it is a snake bite then antivenom is your only hope of saving the animal and remember, this is expensive.

Keep your backyard clear of long grass and remove any piles of rubbish as these are havens for snakes. If you find a snake please contact a snake removal service or the Wildlife Victoria helpline.

2022 AFL Footy is back next month....



If you would like to join us for our 2022 weekly AFL tipping competition please let Cindy know by Friday, 11th March

Tips must be either emailed (cindy@rhodesvet.com.au), or delivered to the clinic by 5pm on the day of the first game of each round.

Tips will not be accepted by telephone.

We will accept several entries from each house. Please ensure the tips are named if more than one person wishes to participate

There is a small cost of \$1/round (\$23 for the season).

As per other seasons we will have a small get together at the end of the season to present the winning tippers with their rewards.