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Rhodes Vet Clinic

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Newsletter

Abomasal Ulcer

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This month we have had symptoms in cows consistent with Abomasal Ulcers. These young cows are very sick. They are anaemic (loss of blood), have inappetence, drop in milk, ataxia (staggering) and with or without treatment they can die depending on how soon we get to see the animal.

Abomasal Ulcers are defects in the mucosal lining of the abomasum (the 4th stomach). The cause of this problem is associated with prolonged inappetence in a sustained high acid in the abomasum. We tend to see these cows presenting after calving when they have gone through high amount of stress and they are not getting enough roughage in their diet. Remember silage is not roughage but straw is.

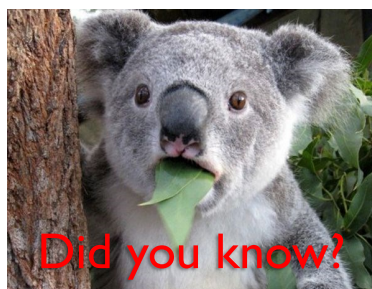


The best way to treat this problem is to provide good roughage. Wheat, oat, barley and straw are perfect as well as poor quality meadow hay. Also, by the covering with an antibiotic it helps reduce any secondary infection from the ulcers that may have perforated the bowel. Minimizing stress to the calving animals will also help (e.g. sheltered paddocks, good feed and not over stocked).



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



- Koala fingerprints are almost indistinguishable from a person's
- Koalas will poo up to 150 times a day.
- Koalas only drink water if they absolutely have to and will occasionally eat mud to get extra minerals
- Koalas have 2 sets of vocal chords allowing them to make sounds 20 times lower than should be possible for their size.

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**

IVDD - Intervertebral Disc Disease

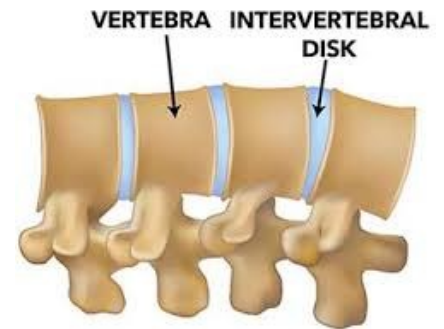
Intervertebral disc disease (IVDD) is the most common spinal disease in dogs but is also occasionally seen in cats. Intervertebral discs are fibrocartilage cushions that sit between the vertebrae. These cushions allow movement, are supportive and act as shock absorbers. Intervertebral disc degeneration results in changes of the disc that can ultimately lead to a ruptures of the disc and spinal cord compressions.

Causes. IVDD is caused by degenerative changes in the intervertebral disc. Commonly, dogs that have short legs in relation to their body such as Dachshunds, Beagles, Terriers are at most risk to IVDD.

Clinical signs. The initial signs are usually associated with pain. Signs associated with spinal pain include abnormal posture such as a hunched back, shivering, panting, unwillingness to move and difficulty jumping or using stairs. This can progress to difficulty walking, poor control of the limbs, weakness, wobbly walking or even paralysis. Disc disease can also affect the ability to empty the bladder. In severe cases there can be loss of sensation or feeling in the legs.

Diagnosis. Intervertebral disc disease may be strongly suspected based on clinical signs especially in predisposed breeds, however diagnostic imaging is essential to confirm the diagnosis.

Treatment. Conservative or non-surgical conservative management may be indicated for patients with pain only or for those with very mild deficits. The most important aspect is restriction of movement which involves cage or crate confinement for a minimum of 8 weeks. Medication is used to relieve the pain associated with the intervertebral disc. Regular rechecks are usually required to assess your pet's progress. In some cases. Surgical treatment is required, surgery involves removing the compressed disc from in-between the vertebrae. This surgery is completed by specialist surgeons.



welcome

We welcome Beth Callahan as a trainee to the RVC team.

Beth is a local who has two much loved pets, Iggy the Golden Retriever and Barney the Cavoodle.

These babies even have their own Instagram pages.

Beth's aspiration has always been to work with animals and we are excited to have her join us here at RVC.



Footy Tipping Ladder

At the end of round 11

- | | |
|-------------|-----------|
| 1. Ms Sugar | 5. Chris |
| 2. Amanda | 6. Sharyn |
| 3. Wendy | 7. Kylie |
| 4. Ray | 8. Dean |



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RVC - Rhodes Veterinary Clinic

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