

Merry Christmas



**December
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Rhodes Vet Clinic

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Newsletter

Fibre (Roughage)

Rhodes Veterinary Clinic
74 Gellibrand Street
COLAC 3250
P: 03 5232 2111
F: 03 5231 5892
E: info@rhodesvet.com.au

Veterinarian:

Dr Michael Rhodes

Practice Manager:

Cindy Schoell

Nurses:

Kirsty Paton
Amanda Fisk

Admin:

Kylie Mahoney
Beth Callahan

A very important component of a ruminant's diet is roughage. This year we have had an exceptional amount of rainfall. The high amount of rain is causing a high amount of grass growth. It is worth reminding everyone that grass is not roughage.



The rumen requires fibre that bacteria can attach itself too. This bacteria allows for better absorption of the digested nutrients.

By its definition, fibre is just that, non digestible Fibre (NDF). The NDF content of forage should be used to ensure there is adequate fibre in the diet. Ideally we would like this to be greater than 45%. Straw has a high NDF and so is perfect roughage.

Good quality silage, hay and fodder all have a low NDF and can be too quickly digested. This fast digestion is shown when the ruminant excretes waste in the form of dietary diarrhoea. The rumen does not have enough time to digest these and they rush through the digestive tract to be excreted. This in itself is not a necessarily problem, but is a waste of nutrition.

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



Having fibre in the diet slows down digestion and allows more nutrition to be absorbed by the animal which is essential for growth, wool and milk production, therefore making it a very important factor in the well being of the ruminant.



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**



Gastroenteritis



This month we have had a number of Gastroenteritis cases in dogs of unknown causation. The term gastric meaning stomach and enteritis meaning small intestine. Gastroenteritis shows itself in our patients with vomiting and diarrhoea. The dogs are off their food, lethargic, not interested in play and lack any get up and go. You may notice your dog vomiting or passing loose stools. The diarrhoea is usually smelly, can be black in colour and can also contain traces of blood.



Your dog may also have a temperature. This with the diarrhoea and vomiting is indicative of a bacterial infection. Dogs presenting with diarrhoea and vomiting, but without the high temperature, normally will have eaten something that has made them become unwell.

The first thing to do is to remove food from the dog's diet for at least 24hrs. If the vomiting and/or diarrhoea persists, they may be losing ions such as chloride, sodium and magnesium and can become very dehydrated. The dehydration is what can be causing your dog to be so unwell. Making sure your dog stays hydrated is essential. Offering your dog hydralytes will assist in keeping them hydrated. Sometimes, in severe cases an IV drip may be required.

It is important to start feeding your dog again after 24hrs. You can do this by starting with a bland and easily digestible diet. A mix of rice and veg with either boiled chicken breast or fish is a great way to transition them back to their normal diet.

If you are worried, seeing your veterinarian is good place to start, ideally within 24hrs of the onset of symptoms.



- Reindeer are the only mammals that can see ultraviolet light.
- Both male and female reindeer grow antlers.
- Santa's reindeer may be all female as male reindeer shed their antlers in December.

Mike and the staff at Rhodes Veterinary Clinic would like to wish everyone a safe and happy Christmas.

Christmas Trading Hours

Friday 16th December - 8am - 1pm

Saturday 17th December - Closed

Monday 26th December - Closed

Tuesday 27th December - Closed

Wednesday 28th December - Saturday 31st December
Normal Trading

Monday 2nd January - Closed

Normal Trading to resume from
Tuesday 3rd January



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