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Rhodes Vet Clinic

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Newsletter

Woody Tongue

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It is the time of year where we start to see Woody Tongue appearing in our animals. Woody Tongue is caused by the piercing of a foreign body into the soft tissue of the mouth, usually in the form of grass seeds and thistles. The foreign body causes the infection *actinobacillus lignieresii*, better known as Woody Tongue.



The infection occurs entirely in the soft tissue of the tongue. The tongue can become very hard swollen and painful. The animal may also present with a large amount of drool coming from the mouth and occasionally the tongue may be protruding out side of the mouth due to the amount of swelling.



It is important to treat the animal rapidly as with the swollen tongue the animal may find it difficult to eat, drink and swallow.

Treatment is relatively simple and the animal typically recovers quickly.

To prevent Woody Tongue try and avoid feeding coarse feed or pastures full of hard penetrative plants such as fox tail and thistles.

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



- Sheep have rectangular pupils. Rectangular pupils allow for a wide field of vision, around 270 to 320 degrees.
- Ewes are able to recognize which lamb is theirs just by the sound of their calls.
- Sheep are capable of experiencing a wide range of emotions. They have been known to feel afraid, angry, bored, sad, and happy.

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**

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.



As we say good bye to 2022, we would like to wish all our valued clients a very happy 2023.



Last month we were lucky to have Ben Rhodes complete a veterinary school placement with us. Dr Leigh also returned for a short visit to allow Mike to have some much deserved time off. Thank you both, it was a pleasure having you both spend time in the clinic with us.

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