

**February
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Rhodes Vet Clinic

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Newsletter

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Snake Bites - In Horses

It is an old chestnut but snake bite is back again. This time it is in horses. Horses, when bitten by snakes, can show signs of colic by lying down on the ground and becoming uncomfortable.



A sign your horse may have been bitten by a snake is pronounced pupillary dilation without any pupillary response to light. This means there is no response to bright light. The menace reflex is present and the animal can see. Muscle tremors are most obvious in a standing horse with the animal becoming very fidgety and wanting to lie down. The horse will not stay down and may insist on raising and wandering about in a compulsive way. This is why snake bites can be easily confused as signs of colic. Horses can also show an inability to swallow, with salivation and accumulation of food in the mouth.

Foals bitten by snakes may present with signs of drowsiness by drooping of the eye lids, partial tongue paralysis, muscle tremors and weakness, leading to recumbency. Pupillary dilation may also occur and their respiration becomes labored. Sweating, an inability to suck, swallow or whinny may occur late in the course.



It is essential that antivenene be administered ASAP for your horse to have the best chance of survival. Once administered the horse should show signs of improvement within 10-20 minutes. Antivenene must be administered as an I/V injection or as an infusion with fluids.

Reference: Veterinary Medicine. Blood, Henderson & Radostits. Fifth edition.

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



Q: What do you use to count cows ?

A: Cow-culator!

Q: What do you call an alligator wearing a vest?

A: An Investigator!

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**

Be Aware of Human Medications

It may seem like a very simple thing to say and even a simpler thing to do, but it is very important to keep your medications out of reach of your pets.

Medications prescribed for humans could have lasting side effects on your pet, especially if those medications are for treating high blood pressure or heart conditions. It might be surprising to know that a lot of the medications prescribed to humans are similar to the medications used to treat our animals.

If your pet has ingested a small amount of the medication it may pass rapidly without concern through the gastro intestinal tract. However, if your pet has ingested a number of tablets or you are unsure of the amount of medication ingested then it is important to call your veterinarian to induce vomiting.



Problems come when the medications absorb into the animals system which can cause a magnitude of problems depending the type of medication that may have been ingested. It is very important to bring the medication along with you when you see the veterinarian so they can do their research to better understand what they are up against.

Your pet may be placed on a drip to help flush the medications out of their system and if fitting is persistent the animal can be placed into an induced coma while the body processes the medications via the kidneys and liver.

It is then a case of monitoring the animals vital signs and hope that the medications don't leave your pet with any on going health problems.

We wish Beth all the best as she begins her Vet Nurse training studies at TAFE this month.

2023 AFL Footy is back next month....
If you would like to join us for our 2023 weekly AFL tipping competition please let Cindy know by the 10th of 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.

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We offer zip pay on purchases over \$100