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Rhodes Vet Clinic

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Newsletter

Sedation

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After surgery, we need to keep our animals quiet and restrained. Recently, we have been asked by our clients for sedation for their pet while they recover from their surgeries. This is not something that we recommend as a method of keeping your animal quiet. It is not sustainable or humane. Sedation is used by vets for specific reasons such as premedication for anesthesia and reducing the response time to stimulation of your animal for clipping, injections etc.



The most common drug we use for sedation is known as ACP (Acepromazine) as it has strong tranquillizing properties that depress the central nervous system. It has other benefits such as anti-nausea and some pain relief.

One of the major side effects with ACP is that it causes the dilation of the blood vessels which can cause a drop in blood pressure. Therefore, it is not a drug to be used for everyday for keeping our animals quiet. It is only to be used specifically by a veterinarian due to these side effects.

Sedation works best when the animal is relaxed and tends to be less effective when used on highly stung or stressed animals. ACP is dosed on the weight of the animal and the level of anxiety.

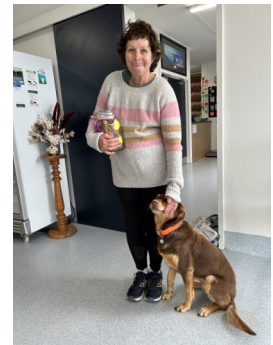
ACP is a very useful drug as it is effective on all species, but must be only used under veterinary guidance.

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

Congratulations to Leanne Cole and her kelpie, Kisses, for being the closest guess on dog treat jar fundraiser.

Thank you to all those who participated with \$125 raised in support of Pink Up Colac & The McGrath Foundation.



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**

Rat Bait

Rat and mouse poisons, also known as rodenticides, are products formulated to kill rodents. The chemicals used in these products are often highly toxic to dogs and can cause internal bleeding, kidney failure, organ damage and even death if eaten by your dog.

Worryingly, many modern rodenticides have a palatable flavour in order to attract animals and could look like a tasty snack to your pup.

There are several different types of rat poisons that act differently depending on the poisonous ingredient they contain. The most common types are anticoagulant rodenticides which prevent the blood from clotting, leading to internal bleeding.

Other varieties include cholecalciferol (vitamin D3) which ultimately causes severe, acute kidney failure, bromethalin which works to cause brain swelling and zinc and aluminum phosphides which release phosphine gas once in the stomach.

There are also a number of increasingly popular rodent poisons on the market containing the substance alphachloralose. This works by depressing the central nervous system and treatment is very different to poisoning by anticoagulant rodenticides.

If you suspect your dog has swallowed rodenticide call your vet immediately. Rat poisoning in dogs is an emergency that can't wait until morning.

Your vet will want to know as much information as possible in order to identify the type of poison and decide on the best course of treatment. If you can, take note of the following information to tell the vet. Your dog's weight, the day and time of exposure, brand name and manufacturer, active ingredients and their concentration, package size and approximately how much is missing from the pack - Take the packaging with you if possible.

Symptoms of rat poisoning in dogs vary depending on the type of poison they've been in contact with. If your dog has eaten an anticoagulant rat poison they are at risk of internal bleeding which can be fatal if not treated quickly.



Signs may not display until around 3-5 days after ingestion so it's still vital that your dog receives treatment for rat poisoning, even if they aren't showing any symptoms. Signs of internal bleeding can include, weakness and lethargy, vomiting or coughing blood, nose bleeds, bleeding from the gums, bleeding, toileting, blood in stools, bruising and breathing difficulties (caused by bleeding into the lungs).

Treatment depends on several factors including the type of poison, the amount eaten and the length of time since ingestion. Because there are so many varieties of rodenticide available, treatment can vary and only after examination will your vet be able to decide on the best course of treatment.

An option that is safer for our animals is Ratsak Naturals. This product is made from sodium chloride which is toxic to rodents as it causes them to dehydrate. Rats and mice have stomach sensors that tells them when they are thirsty. When they eat the bait it coats the lining of their gut, covering the 'fine hairs' or villi – which disrupts the message system to the rodents brain causing them to stop drinking, as the stomach sensors are effectively 'switched off'. These stomach sensors are unique to rodents as they cannot vomit, so once they consume the bait they will die within 4-7 days when used correctly and as per instructions. The bait is multi-feed and requires the rodent to consume the bait for 2-5 days. Even though this type of bait is safer for your pet it is still strongly recommended that you get your pet checked by a veterinarian as soon as possible if you suspect they have ingested any type of poison.

Reference: <https://www.vets-now.com/pet-care-advice/dog-ate-rat-poison/>

