

**October  
2023**

# Rhodes Vet Clinic

**Volume 13  
Issue 10**

**Newsletter**

## Post Surgery Care

Rhodes Veterinary Clinic  
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When your animal has had invasive surgery from desexing the animal will have a number of sutures placed internally and externally. In a lot of cases the animal will be sent home with an Elizabethan collar or an inflatable doughnut collar.



These are put on the animal to prevent them from chewing and licking at the surgery site. When the animal has an incision, the first thing they will want to do is lick at their sutures as the area will feel unusual.

Ideally, sutures need to be left in for 10 to 14 days. In which the skin will come together to knit, form a scar and heal. Allowing the animal to lick the surgery site will irritate the site preventing the wound from healing, if this is allowed to continue the animal will open up the wound and eviscerate. When this happens the animal will need to go under another general anesthetic to be re-sutured.

We find that problems start to occur when the collars are removed and the animal is not monitored. Don't be fooled by your pet if they appear to look sad or cannot quite get the hang of navigating life with the collar, it can only take a few minutes for the animal to start removing its own sutures.

Please do not take the collar off before the sutures are removed!



It is also important to restrict the animal's exercise. Too much movement will put strain on the wound area and will cause ruptured sutures. Please keep active animals from running, jumping, playing with a ball or any kind of rough housing play.

### 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

**Simpson Office:**

Please call 5232 2111

[www.rhodesveterinaryclinic.com.au](http://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**

## Spring Check

With the change of the season, comes more grass growth. The increase of grass growth can present problems for our cattle, sheep and alpacas.

Apart from the big metabolic problems such as grass tetany and milk fever, we should also be mindful for fire fever. Our animal should have access to good quality fibre. This can be in the form of hay or straw.

People see the growing grass and forget that the animals still need a good source of fibre. Without fibre the animals stool may become loose and the ability to digest food is reduced.



Coming into summer, it is time to worm our animals to reduce their worm burden and the worm egg load in the pasture. We then hope that the hot weather will come along and dry up and desiccate the worms.



It is also important to harrow the paddocks to break up the faecal matter, opening them up to dry out the faeces.

If you are locking up paddocks, make sure that the water troughs are clean, for when the animals return to the paddock. The easiest way to treat the trough is to place in cooper sulphate, this will kill any algae as well as faecal contamination from water birds.

## Pink Up Colac Fundraiser

To raise funds for the Pink up Colac and the McGrath Foundation, we have a jar of dog treats in the clinic for you all to guess the amount.

Make a donation then have a guess on how many treats are in the jar.



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