

**December  
2023**

# Rhodes Vet Clinic



**Volume 13  
Issue 12**

**Newsletter**

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## Vitamin B1 Deficiency

Cow and calves that show signs of the wobbles, ranging from mild, to quite severe can have a variety different of causes.

Calves that have the wobbles, appear drunk, walk in circles and star gazing can often mean that the animal is low in vitamin B1 or lack of Thiamine. This is caused by an enzyme on the grass that destroys vitamin B1. Lack of vitamin B1 leads to inflammation of the brain causing brain cells to swell and die.



The other big cause of lack of vitamin B1 is from Brassica crops, being turnips, turnip rape, etc. These crops are low in vitamin B1 after the crops have been eaten off and start to grow regrow. They can also cause photo synthesisation, which is another story.

Mature cows are not as affected by vitamin B1 deficiency. If they present with weird gaits, they are often affected by nitrate PSG, low magnesium, meningitis, dehydration, Lad PSG and a few more conditions that we, in the southwest, do not have.

It is important to ring and give your Vet the complete picture of the animal's gait. Taking a video of the animal and sending it to us can help immensely in determining on what is going on. Deciding on the right diagnosis will aid us to treat the animal accordingly.

Some ways to avoid B1 deficiency in your herd include avoiding sudden feed changes, avoid going from stinky summer pasture to fast, fermentable lush pasture. Where possible, a slow transition is advisable. It is also important to monitor cattle, especially youngstock, after moving them onto a fresh paddock.

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

**Christmas Trading Hours**

Monday 25th December - Closed

Tuesday 26th December - Closed

Wednesday 27th December - Sunday 31st December

Normal Trading

Monday 1st January - Closed

Normal Trading to resume from Tuesday 3rd January



### 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**

# Snake Bite

One of the most serious emergencies you may ever face as a dog owner is if your dog is bitten by a venomous snake. This situation is one we all dread and do our best to prevent but sometimes even the best prevention is not enough. Therefore, knowing the immediate steps to take in case of a snake bite is crucial to increase the chances of saving your dog's life.



The venom of an Eastern Brown snake is rated as the second most toxic snake in the world. The venom of an Eastern Brown, as well as a Tiger snake contains a cocktail of poisons. The most powerful is a neurotoxin, which paralyses the nerves of the heart, lungs and diaphragm, suffocating its victim.

If you suspect your dog has been bitten by a snake it is essential to seek veterinary assistance immediately. Always call ahead to let the clinic know. This saves essential time as the vet will be ready to treat your animal immediately upon your arrival at the clinic. If you can identify the breed of the snake, make sure you tell your vet.

Not all dogs that come in contact with snakes are bitten. However, your dog may ingest a snake after it has won the fight. The symptoms of snake ingestion are the same, but the onset is much slower and less violent, but still just as deadly.

Signs to look out for are pupil dilation, excessive salivation, laboured breathing, tremors and vomiting. Sometimes it can seem like your dog has made a sudden recovery after a lethal dose of venom. This may then be followed by the collapse and potential death of your dog. Always seek immediate veterinary treatment.

It is important to keep your animal calm and quiet to reduce your dog's movements and where possible apply a firm bandage above, below and over the site of the bite. This can assist in stopping the venom from spreading to the heart.

Snakes only bite when they feel threatened. Do not attempt to pick up, capture or kill the snake. A good quality snake avoidance trainer can teach your dog that snakes are to be avoided. Snake avoidance training focuses not only on avoiding snakes, but to also create distance when they smell the snake. For more information on snake avoidance training visit <https://www.vdta.com.au/services/snake-avoidance-dog-training/>

Mark Pelley - The Snake Hunter  
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**CANINE SNAKE AVOIDANCE**



Licensed snake catcher Benny McNamara can come to your home to capture and remove snakes from your property.

**Benny McNamara**  
 Licenced Snake Catcher  
 PH: 0498 063 229

LICENCE NO: 14894251-CX

# Merry Christmas

