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Rhodes Vet Clinic

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Newsletter

Diabetes in Dogs

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Diabetes is a disease of the pancreas. This is a small organ located near the stomach. It has two significant populations of cells. One group of cells produces the enzymes necessary for proper digestion. The other group, called beta-cells, produce the hormone insulin. Simply put, diabetes is a failure of the pancreatic beta cells to regulate blood glucose levels (BGL).



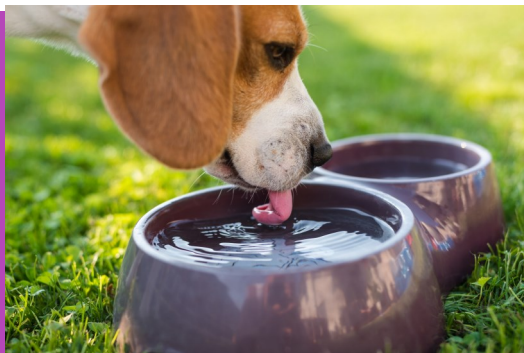
Dogs that are diabetic are placed on insulin twice a day. This regulates the blood glucose that is naturally created from the digestion of its food. A diet low in K/CAL but high in fibre is recommended. Once the correct diet and insulin doses are established, the dog usually stabilizes and goes on to have a long, normal life with regular BGL checks.

Occasionally a dog that has been a diabetic for a very long time can develop a tumour of the pancreas that produces too much insulin, which is called 'insulinoma'. These tumours cause signs such as collapse at exercise and very low blood glucose levels.

For the diagnosis of an insulinoma your vet would need to find both low BGL at the same time as having high levels of insulin in the blood. Insulinomas are difficult to cure because the spread to other tissue is very common.

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



The prognosis of dogs with insulinomas comes with its reservations as clinical symptoms almost always return due to tumour regrowth and spread.

If you suspect your dog is diabetic, consult your vet for a diagnosis. Symptoms can include, excessive water consumption and urination, increased hunger, rapid weight loss, lethargy, cloudy eyes and depression.

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**

Bovine Respiratory Disease (BRD)

Bovine Respiratory Disease (BRD) or Pneumonia in calves is one of the most common diseases in calves. The short and long term cost of BRD in calves is significant and can arise from treatment cost of antibiotics, anti-inflammatories and labour. BRD also has a negative effect on the health of the animals. Calves that have had BRD, when compared to those who have not had the disease, are more than twice as likely to die or be culled prior to their first calving. They, also compared the animals who have not had BRD produce 120kg less milk in their first lactation.



There is a wide range of risk factors making calves more susceptible to BRD which can include inadequate colostrum intake resulting in poor immunity. Poor calf shed ventilation, poor air quality, group housing, shared feeders and water sources and inadequate milk feeding also contribute to the risk of spreading BRD.

Diagnosing calves early for BRD is difficult as calves can show very little signs of the illness in the early stages. Once the calf becomes obviously sick, they often have pneumonia and could already have significant lung damage.

A simple BRD scoring system has been developed by the University of California that is designed to be used on farm to aid in early diagnosis of BRD. It assesses the animal in 6 easily measurable parameters, allocating a score to each of those parameters if present

- Cough - 2 points
- Eye discharge - 2 points
- Temperature over 39.2 - 2 points
- Abnormal respiration (rate/depth/effort) - 2 points
- Nasal discharge - 4 points
- Ear droop or head tilt - 5 points



Simply observe the calf for these 6 signs and add the points. If you get more than a score of 5 your calf may have BRD and will require immediate veterinary treatment.

Good colostrum management is essential to pass on good immunity to calves in their first few weeks of life. It is also important that your calf shed is well ventilated, reducing the amount of ammonia, dust and fungal spores in the air which can predispose calves to BRD.

Good nutrition is essential as well fed calves get sick less often.

Having your vaccination schedule up to date and relevant to the BRD problems that are arising on your farm is key to the prevention of having a BRD breakout on your property.

Call us at the clinic to organise a on farm chat with any questions you might have regarding BRD.

Reference: <https://dairy-cattle.extension.org/simplified-scoring-system-to-identify-respiratory-disease-in-dairy-calves/>

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