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# Rhodes Vet Clinic

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**Newsletter**

## Cryptosporidiosis

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Cryptosporidiosis is a common gastrointestinal illness in young calves caused by the parasite *Cryptosporidium*. This usually happens in the first few weeks after the calf is born.

Symptoms of cryptosporidiosis in calves can include diarrhoea, dehydration, weight loss, and poor growth. Calves may also show signs of abdominal pain and have a reduced appetite. Often calves are incorrectly treated with normal scour treatments, but do not respond and deteriorate over the next 7 to 10 days and die.

Treatment for cryptosporidiosis in calves typically involves supportive care, such as oral fluid therapy to combat dehydration and electrolyte imbalances caused by diarrhea. In addition to oral fluids, Halocur is given orally over 3 to 5 days. Halocur can also be given as a prevention when given prior to calf entering the calf shed, this will help prevent further infections.

Prevention is key in managing cryptosporidiosis in calves. Here are a few measures you can take to help prevent the infection of Cryptosporidiosis:

1. Practice good hygiene: Maintain clean calving areas and ensure proper sanitation to minimize the risk of infection.
2. Separate infected calves: Isolate calves showing symptoms to prevent the spread of the parasite to healthy individuals.
3. Ensure proper nutrition: Provide adequate colostrum to newborn calves to boost their immune system and reduce susceptibility to infections.
4. Specialized cleaning and disinfection: Clean and disinfect all feeding equipment along with the entire calf pen regularly to minimize the survival and spread of the parasite. Crypto is difficult to remove from the environment, products such as Vircon S will kill the infection left in the environment.

Remember, it is always best to consult with a veterinarian for specific advice tailored to your calves' needs.



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**Simpson Office:**  
Please call 5232 2111

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**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**

## Ear Infections in Dogs

While all animals can get ear infections, dogs are particularly prone to them. One common cause is foreign bodies, like grass seeds, that can get lodged in the ear canal when dogs scratch or itch. Dirty ears, whether from dirt or allergies, can also lead to inflammation and infection.

When it comes to treating ear problems, it's crucial to determine the specific cause. If there's a foreign body, the ear may need to be examined under anaesthesia to locate and remove it safely.

In the case of an ear infection, it's often a combination of bacterial, yeast, and fungal infections. This requires a two-pronged approach. Antibiotics to tackle the bacterial infection and eardrops to address the yeast and fungal infections. The antibiotics tackle the bacterial infection which removes the redness and inflammation, while the eardrops combat the yeast and fungal infections.

However, if the ear problem is allergy-related, it can be more challenging to control. In these cases, medications that control the immune system may be necessary to manage the inflammation caused by allergies. These medications can be very pricy, but have proven to be very effective in treating dog with allergies related infections



It's important to note that all of these situations do require veterinary intervention. A veterinarian can properly diagnose the cause of the ear problem and provide the appropriate treatment.

If your furry friend is experiencing any ear issues, it's best to seek professional help from a vet.

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