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Rhodes Vet Clinic

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Newsletter

Trace Minerals in Cattle Nutrition

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During autumn, when forage quality and availability may fluctuate, cattle may face deficiencies in key trace minerals like zinc, copper, selenium, and manganese. Despite being needed in small amounts, these micronutrients play critical roles in maintaining optimal health, reproduction, growth, and immunity in cattle. Ensuring proper supplementation during this season is crucial to prevent imbalances in the animals' diets and maintain their overall well-being. This month we delve into the significance of trace minerals in the nutrition of cattle.



Growth and Development: Trace minerals such as zinc, copper, and manganese are integral for proper skeletal development, enzyme function, and protein synthesis in young cattle. Deficiencies in these minerals can lead to stunted growth and skeletal abnormalities, impacting overall productivity.

Reproductive Performance: Trace minerals play a pivotal role in reproductive health and fertility of cattle. For instance, adequate levels of selenium are crucial for maintaining optimal reproductive function in both male and female cattle. Selenium deficiency can result in decreased fertility and increased embryonic mortality.

Immune Function: Trace minerals are essential for bolstering the immune system of cattle, enabling them to resist diseases and infections. Zinc, copper, and selenium are particularly vital for the proper functioning of immune cells and the production of antibodies. Deficiencies in these minerals can render cattle more susceptible to infections and diseases.

Hoof Health: Trace minerals like zinc and copper are essential for maintaining hoof integrity in cattle. Deficiencies in these minerals can lead to hoof problems such as hoof cracks and lameness, adversely affecting the animal's mobility and overall well-being.

Antioxidant Defense: Selenium, in particular, acts as a potent antioxidant in cattle, protecting cells from oxidative damage. Adequate selenium levels help mitigate oxidative stress, which can arise during periods of high metabolic activity or environmental stress.

Trace minerals are crucial for the overall health, productivity, and welfare of cattle. Ensuring appropriate levels of these micronutrients in cattle diets is crucial for optimising growth, reproduction, immunity, and overall performance. By understanding and addressing the importance of trace minerals, farmers can enhance the well-being and productivity of their cattle herds.

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



RVC Footy Tipping Ladder

At the end of round 7

- | | | |
|---------------|----------------|---------------|
| 1. Josh (49) | 3. Sharyn (46) | 5. Kylie (45) |
| 2. Megan (46) | 4. Tracy (46) | 6. WAL (45) |

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

Beransa

As the months turn colder, you may find your dogs and cats starting to suffer from arthritis. Over the last 12 months we have been using a new medication on our dogs and cats called Beransa. After starting these dogs on Beransa we have seen a real change in their quality of life.

Here are some commonly asked questions some of our clients have had prior to starting their pets on Beransa.

In what cases should I be using Beransa? Beransa is indicated for the alleviation of pain associated with osteoarthritis in dogs. Any Dog older the 12 months suffering from osteoarthritis can be administered Beransa. Common predisposing causes for the development of osteoarthritis can include hip and elbow dysplasia, orthopedic surgery, cruciate ligament rupture, fractures and joint incongruity. Dogs of any size can be treated with Beransa.

What are some of the common signs of osteoarthritis? Mild - intermittent pain and showing intermittent signs of lameness that resolve after rest. Discomfort may be more apparent after sudden bouts of exercise. Moderate - Chronic pain and becoming exercise intolerant. They may hesitate or show difficulty jumping into the car or going upstairs. More likely to lag behind during walks. Severe - Chronic pain and losing the ability to walk. Muscle wasting in the affected limbs.

Should I use Beransa in mild & moderate osteoarthritis, or just in severe cases? Beransa is indicated for any dog with osteoarthritis related pain irrespective of whether it is categorised as mild, moderate or severe. One benefit of treatment with Beransa to alleviate pain early in osteoarthritis is the potential to help slow the disease's progression before severe irreversible damage has occurred.

What happens if the patient doesn't experience a change on the first injection? The dog should return to the clinic monthly for review of their osteoarthritis related pain and repeat injections. In some cases, dogs have shown signs of improvement after a few months of treatment.



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