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Rhodes Vet Clinic

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Newsletter

Equine Asthma

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Equine asthma is a condition that arises from an inappropriate inflammatory responses in the lungs due to dust and mold exposure. Proper management is crucial for maintaining a horse's health and performance.

Equine asthma is triggered when sensitive horses inhale dust and mould, leading to inflammation and increased mucus production in the lungs. This can result in an overgrowth of normal respiratory bacteria. Antibiotics are not necessary for this bacterial overgrowth, as it resolves once the inflammation is controlled. Overuse of antibiotics can cause side effects such as diarrhea, loss of appetite and disruption of beneficial gut bacteria. Additionally, antibiotic-resistant bacteria pose risks by potentially spreading between horses and humans and leading to ineffective treatment.

Managing equine asthma focuses on reducing airway inflammation and minimizing environmental triggers. Key management strategies include:

- **Avoid Large Round Bales:** These often contain higher dust and mould levels.
- **Limit Dry Hay Nets:** Use alternatives to reduce dust inhalation.
- **Feed on Ground Level:** This helps to minimise dust from hay.
- **Soak or Steam Hay:** These methods reduce dust in the feed.
- **Use Low Dust Feeds:** Opt for feeds that produce minimal dust.
- **Remove Horses During Cleaning:** Ensure horses are not present during stable cleaning to avoid dust exposure.
- **Use Low Dust Bedding:** Replace traditional straw with bedding that generates less dust.

Effective management of equine asthma involves reducing environmental triggers and controlling inflammation. Avoiding unnecessary antibiotic use and focusing on proper environmental adjustments are essential for maintaining the respiratory health and overall well-being of horses.



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 20

1. Josh (118)
2. James (115)
3. Shannon (114)
4. Sharyn (114)
5. Megan (113)
6. Ellie (113)

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**

Dental Health

Periodontal disease is the most commonly diagnosed medical problem in small animal and presents a significant welfare concern due to the potential to cause pain. This condition typically initiates with gingivitis triggered by bacterial plaque accumulation. If left untreated, it progresses to periodontitis, a condition characterised by inflammation of the tooth's supportive structures, leading to tissue destruction and attachment loss.

Detecting dental pain in pets can be challenging since they often do not exhibit obvious symptoms. Hence, it's crucial for pet owners to maintain vigilance regarding their pet's oral health. Regular dental cleanings performed by veterinarians under anesthesia, coupled with diligent home care, are essential preventive measures.



Home care strategies for pets can be either active or passive. Active care involves daily tooth brushing which is the most effective method for plaque removal. Passive care options require less effort and include feeding special dental diets, offering dental chews and providing raw bones.

Special dental diets such as Hills Science Diet T/D are highly effective, particularly when used as the primary food source. Mixing a portion of this diet with regular pet food can also improve dental health. Additionally, raw bones and quality dental chews are effective in reducing tartar buildup and promoting oral hygiene.



As part of our commitment to promoting pet dental health, we observe National Pet Dental Health Awareness Month in August. During this period, we offer complimentary nurse dental checks, which provides an excellent opportunity for pet owners to ensure their pet's dental well-being is maintained.

By implementing these proactive measures and staying attentive to your pet's oral health, you can help prevent the onset and progression of periodontal disease, ensuring your pet enjoys a healthier and more comfortable life.

Free Dental Checks
with one of our
qualified nurses for
the month of August
Scheduling an appointment is essential

JUST
A FARMER
Free Special Screening
7th August | 7:15 pm
COPACC
CORANGAMITE CMA
LETSTALK
BREAKING MENTAL HEALTH STIGMA



Wednesdays have become dedicated to Dr. Mike's care for large animals. While he tends to cattle, sheep, and horses every day, Wednesdays are when he sets aside his clinic duties to focus more on these animals.