

**November
2024**

Rhodes Vet Clinic

**Volume 14
Issue 11**

Newsletter

Rhodes Veterinary Clinic
74 Gellibrand Street
COLAC 3250
P: 03 5232 2111
F: 03 5231 5892
E: info@rhodesvet.com.au

Veterinarians:

Dr Michael Rhodes
Dr Ness Edwards
Dr Caz Simpson

Practice Manager:

Cindy Schoell

Nurses:

Kirsty Paton
Amanda Fisk

Admin:

Kylie Mahoney
Beth Callahan

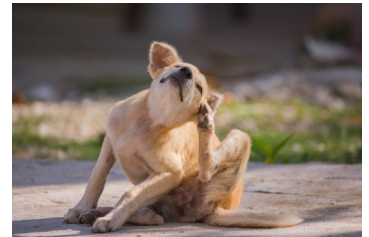
Why Is My Dog Itchy ?

The primary cause of constant itching in dogs and cats is often parasites, in the form of flea dermatitis. While effective flea treatments can help control this issue, some pets may continue to chew at their feet and scratch their bodies for other reasons. One may be environmental, eg grass, plants, trees and pollens. Another could be due to adverse food reactions.

In pets with food allergies, their immune system reacts to specific proteins in their food, which can lead to inflammation of the skin.

When a dog or cat has a food allergy their intestines protective barrier becomes compromised. Normally, the proteins in their food are broken down into amino acids during the digestion process. However, in allergic pets, these proteins may not be fully digested, allowing the undigested proteins to pass through the intestinal wall. This triggers an immune response, resulting in inflammation and symptoms such as itching and skin issues.

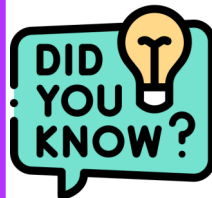
The time between food ingestion and the onset of symptoms in dogs and cats varies based on the type of reaction, the animal's sensitivity and the duration of exposure. Gastrointestinal symptoms such as loss of appetite, weight loss, abdominal pain, vomiting, persistent diarrhea or constipation and flatulence may also indicate adverse food reactions. Planning elimination diets and making changes to confirm a diagnosis can be challenging and the success rates can be misleading.



Food reaction testing (FRT) is a serum test designed to identify immune responses to specific food components. It measures various antibody reactions against these components, helping to determine if an animal has an immune sensitivity to certain foods. The results can indicate whether a diet change may be necessary to manage adverse food reactions effectively. Although effective, it is important to note that the test is also quite expensive.

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



Mantis shrimp can throw the fastest punch in the natural world: Their claws can accelerate as quickly as a .22 caliber bullet, and they use this speed to crack open the shells of prey.

The dung beetle can navigate using the Milky Way: They are one of the few known non-human species to navigate by the stars, using the Milky Way's band of light to guide their path as they roll their dung balls.

Giraffes have the same number of vertebrae in their necks as humans: Despite their long necks, giraffes have only seven vertebrae, the same number as humans.

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.**

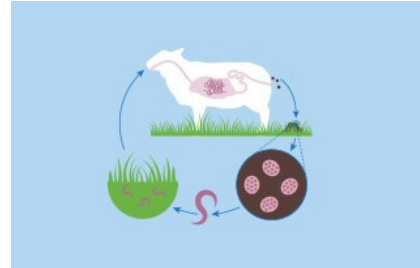
**Our emergency number
is: 5232 2111**

Worm Burden

Spring is in the air and with that means an increase in grass growth. This happens because of the warmer weather and the rain.

Subsequently, we have a perfect environment for parasites (worms). This mild weather is ideal for maintaining the viability of the parasites eggs on the ground. If the weather is very hot, then the eggs dry up and become non-viable. Conversely, when the weather is too cold, this also kills the eggs. Spring is “Goldilocks” time for the health of the eggs. With more viable eggs on the ground, a greater number of animals are likely to ingest them, resulting in a higher number of worm burdens.

The life cycle of many parasites involves mature adults living in the intestines of the animal, where they release into the lumen of the intestine. These eggs are excreted in the faeces, which then get deposited on the ground. Then another grazing animal comes along, ingests these eggs, becoming infected with new parasites.



To detect the number of eggs that are within the animal, we do a fecal egg flotation (FEF). This is a very simple test and by doing a FEF, we can see how many eggs are in every gram of faeces (EPG). We can also distinguish what type of worm is present by the shape and size of the egg. This is very important, as this will tell you if you have a monoculture worm burden or a mixed culture. If you have a monoculture, it could be that you have resistance going on and further discussion on what antiparasitic program you should use is required.

Infestation can happen very quickly with numbers rising rapidly. In optimal conditions, the life cycle from adult to egg to adult takes around 21-24 days. To help reduce contamination of the animals, the rotation of paddocks is important as well as disturbing fecal parts/droppings. This will help expose the eggs to the sun etc. and kill them.


If you have dung beetles, these little guys remove the faeces from the grassy areas and thus remove the parasites eggs. Remember, if you do have dung beetles, they are very susceptible to ivermectin which will not only kill your parasites but the dung beetles as well. It is better to change the drench away from ivermectin to a white or clear drench or both to save the beetles.



Be aware that it is important to know when to worm your animals and to know which products are suited to the worm burden you are treating, as overuse of one product can result in resistance, which then becomes a very expensive exercise to regain control over the worms.



Thank you to everyone who participated in our “Guess The Dog Treat” competition, which raised \$400 for the McGrath Foundation and breast cancer research. Congratulations to our winner, Heidi Fitzsimmons and her three Beagles, for correctly guessing 139 treats! Heidi secured the winning guess on the very last day of the competition!

Zip now, pay later 

On purchases over \$100