

**December
2024**

Rhodes Vet Clinic



**Volume 14
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Newsletter

Summer Safety

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Summer is finally here, which means snakes are on the move. We have unfortunately already seen a few snake bite cases this year. If you suspect your pet has been bitten by a snake you should immobilise your pet and keep them calm. Contact your veterinarian immediately and make your way to the closest veterinary clinic. The sooner your pet is treated the better the chance of survival. Snakes carry a range of toxins that damage tissue and impair bodily functions including the nervous system and the body's clotting mechanisms.

Signs that your pet may have been bitten by a snake

- Sudden weakness followed by collapse
- Shaking/twitching of muscles
- Vomiting
- Dilated pupils, not responsive to light
- Blood in urine
- Paralysis



It is an important reminder that sometimes your pet may initially collapse and then will appear to recover. This is a sign of a lethal dose of venom.

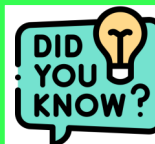
Please keep your backyard clear of long grass, wood piles and rubbish, as snakes love to hide. Ensure that your dog is on a leash when away from home. If you find a snake, contact a snake removal service or Wildlife Victoria.

That's enough about snakes. Summer can be a dangerous time for our pets. Here are some handy hints to keep our pets safe during the hot weather:

- Ensure your pet has access to fresh clean water, dehydration can happen quickly
- Limit exercise, opt for early mornings or late evenings when it's cooler
- Provide plenty of shade, apply pet-safe sunscreen to vulnerable areas
- Never leave your pet in a hot car
- Consider a cooling mat for your pet to lay on
- Frozen vegetables are a great way to provide cooling enrichment for your pet
- Watch for signs of heat stroke. Symptoms include excessive panting, drooling, vomiting and in severe cases collapse.

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



Hummingbirds are the only birds that can fly backwards.

Sloths Can Hold Their Breath Longer Than Dolphins .

Octopus Have Three Hearts

A Single Honeybee Can Visit Up to 5,000 Flowers in a Day

A Blue Whale's Heart is the Size of a Small Car

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**

Trace Elements

Trace elements are chemical elements of a minute quantity in nutrition. Trace elements are classified into two groups. One being essential trace elements and the other being non essential trace elements. Essential trace elements are needed for many physiological and biochemical processes in animals; copper (Cu) Manganese (Mn) Zinc (Zn) Selenium (Se) Cyanocobalamin (B12). All these affect the cows growth, reproduction, immune defense and energy.

What does Vitamin B12 do? Firstly B12 plays a key role in DNA synthesis. Without DNA we cannot exist. It is required to split and divide to make new cells. In cattle and sheep (ruminants) they require Vitamin B12 to make their own glucose as their dietary B12 is being used in the rumen by the bacteria that is digesting the grass they have eaten. Vitamin B12 is needed in the production of red blood cells which is very important in the transportation of oxygen and metabolites around the body. This aids in the strength, growth and sustainability of the animal. Without B12 we tend to see young animals not thriving with a manifestation of health problems including fertility in the females.



Above is an image that displays copper deficiency. A rusty coat is a classic sign.

Copper is an important trace element. Trace elements are required in only small amounts but are very important in forming enzymes in the body to help convert the proteins and sugars complex components. Copper is very important in bone growth and supporting the immune system and transporting iron to the bone marrow to help stem cells produce red blood cells.

Zinc is really important in being a catalyst (enzymes) in the making of proteins, carbohydrate metabolism and many other biochemical reactions assisting in muscle growth and recovery after exercise.

Manganese is another trace element that is essential reproductive performance. It is essential for cartilage formation and bone growth in calves. In mature animals it helps against grass tetany and milk fever. By having manganese we get a healthy conversion of nutrition into the growth of the animal.

Selenium plays a very important role in growing animals. It helps cells to divide and so makes for optimal health and performance in cattle. It helps relieve stress such as when weaning, trucking and new environments. It also helps build a strong immune system. It works in conjunction with vitamin E to reduce tissue oxidation and cellular breakdown.

Mike and the staff at Rhodes Veterinary Clinic would like to wish everyone a safe and happy Christmas

Christmas Trading Hours

Wednesday 25th December - Closed

Thursday 26th December - Closed

Friday 27th December - Tuesday 31st December

Normal Trading

Wednesday 1st January - Closed

Normal Trading to resume from Thursday 2nd January



We would also like to thank our receptionist Kylie. She has been an important part of the team for the past 4 years. Farewell and good luck!



IMPORTANT REMINDER

Please pre-order any repeat scripts over the Christmas period. This ensures your pets won't go without.

Also as a reminder, if your pet is due for their 6 monthly health check, appointments will need to be booked in advance.

Zip now, pay later **ZIP**

On purchases over \$100