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Rhodes Vet Clinic

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Newsletter

Grass Seeds

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As pet owners, we always want to ensure that our furry friends are safe while exploring the outdoors. But did you know that something as simple as grass seeds can pose a hidden danger to pets? We will discuss the risks of grass seeds and offer some tips on how to protect your pets.

Why Grass Seeds Are a Concern for Pets

While grass seeds may seem harmless, they can actually cause a range of health problems for pets. These seeds have sharp edges and are designed to stick to surfaces (like animal fur) in order to disperse and grow. Unfortunately, this trait can be troublesome when they get stuck in your pet's paws, ears, eyes, or coat.

- **Skin irritation:** Grass seeds can burrow into your pet's skin, leading to redness, swelling, or even infection.
- **Eye problems:** Seeds can get into your pet's eyes, causing irritation, discomfort, or even more severe damage.
- **Ear infections:** Dogs with floppy ears are especially at risk, as seeds can get lodged in the ear canal and cause painful infections.
- **Ingestion risks:** If a pet accidentally ingests a grass seed, it may cause digestive issues or even become lodged in the throat.

Preventative Measures

Here are some steps you can take to keep your pet safe from grass seeds:

- **Groom your pet regularly:** After walks or outdoor play, check your pet's coat, ears, paws, and eyes for any stuck seeds.
- **Avoid walking in certain areas:** If you know an area has tall grasses or plants that are likely to release seeds, try to avoid those spots with your pet.
- **Consult your vet:** If your pet seems to be in pain or discomfort after outdoor adventures, contact your vet to check for any seed-related injuries.

While grass seeds are a natural part of the outdoors, they can pose serious risks to our pets if we're not careful. By being proactive and taking simple precautions, you can ensure that your pet remains safe and comfortable during their outdoor adventures.



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

House keeping

When paying your invoice via direct debit, please quote your Client ID NOT your invoice number in the payment description. This can be found in the bottom quarter of your account, it's a REF on an invoice or Client NO on your statement.

Please call ahead to schedule appointments, whether its an emergency or not. Being a mixed practice, its not uncommon for our vets to be out of the clinic.

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

Pain in Ruminants

Pain describes an unpleasant sensation associated with actual or potential tissue damage. Pain, like touch, pressure, and position, helps protect the body by warning us of potential harm. However, pain is not just a simple reaction to something hurting; it's the result of the brain processing different signals from the body. How pain is felt can change depending on many factors, such as our mood, stress level, or the situation the animal is in. This means that the same painful stimulus can cause different reactions in the same animal at different times. Pain is more than just a direct response—it's a complex process influenced by both the body and the brain.



When pain is experienced it can be acute, persistent or chronic. The highly individual and subjective nature of pain means it is difficult to define objectively and treat clinically.

Physiologic pain

Physiologic or “ouch” pain is nociceptive that uses normal sensory pathways and serves to protect from tissue damage by warning the animal of potentially harmful stimuli

Pathologic pain

Pathologic pain is produced when there is actual tissue damage. When peripheral tissues are damaged the normal process of sensory signaling can be dramatically altered, resulting in an increase in pain sensitivity. This can be elicited by sensitizing peripheral nociceptors through receptive exposure to noxious stimuli

Animals have natural survival instincts, and in the wild, those that are sick or weak are most in danger of being preyed upon. As a result animals have evolved to instinctively hide pain, resulting in visible signs being on occasion non-specific, subtle and hard to detect. Indicators of pain can also be confused with disease states such as not eating, increased heart rate, increased respiratory rate or altered behavior. Ruminants often become subdued, spend more time lying down, and less time eating and ruminating when in pain for stressed. Recognizing the more subtle signs of pain, as well as the obvious signs, are vital for treating pain successfully.

The easiest type of pain to treat is that which is predictably induced, such as occurs with surgery and some routine husbandry procedures in cattle and sheep. Pre-emptive strategies that minimise pain before it occurs are essential. Consideration should also be given to the processes induced by tissue injury (i.e. inflammation) to avoid development of “pathologic pain” after a procedure. Pre-emptive analgesia lessens the duration and intensity of post-operative pain, decreases the chances of wind-up phenomenon and reduces the risk of the developing a chronic pain state. Anaesthetics and sedatives inhibit the detection or intensity of pain by interfering with pain pathways, but they do not manage the processes (i.e. inflammation) that produce continued noxious stimuli. Non steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) are therefore crucial component in the treatment and management of pain states in ruminant practice and can provide prolonged analgesia with quantifiable benefit on health and production.



As we say good bye to 2024 Mike & the RVC staff would like to wish our clients a safe and Happy New Year.

2025 brings exciting times to us at RVC as we welcome Dr Ben Rhodes to our team . Congratulations Ben, 5 years of focus & great study ethic to realize your dream of being the 3rd generation of the Rhodes Family to join the veterinary industry.

Dr Mike one step closer to retirement... but who's counting

