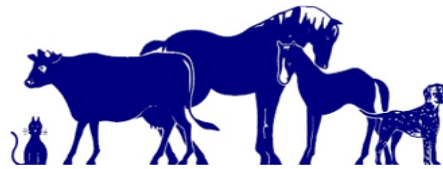


ABN 70 601 832 062



AJ & JL Williams Pty Ltd T/A

WANGARATTA VETERINARY CLINIC

3 Baker St, Wangaratta 3677 Ph (03) 5721 4000 Fax (03) 5722 1269

Friendly service and professional care for all.

Milk Fever (Eclampsia) in dogs

Milk fever occurs when calcium levels in a dog's blood get too low. Calcium levels are normally regulated carefully by the body, with calcium being released from bones when blood levels become low. When a dog starts producing milk, their need for calcium increases suddenly and dramatically and the body is unable to respond quickly enough to meet that demand. Milk fever most commonly occurs **after whelping** but can occur beforehand. Milk fever is **fatal** if not treated quickly.

Symptoms of milk fever:

- Poor mothering behaviour
- Restlessness and anxiety
 - Disorientation
 - Panting
- Vomiting and diarrhoea
- Wobbliness
- Muscle tremors or body stiffness
 - Collapse
- Seizures (fitting)

Common causes of milk fever include:

- Supplementing calcium during pregnancy
- The incorrect calcium: phosphorus ratio in the diet
- Mother is too thin (in poor condition)
- Poor nutrition during pregnancy and after whelping
- First-time mothers

Prevention:

- Ensure your pregnant bitch is fed a good quality dry **puppy food** throughout pregnancy and lactation
- Monitor your bitch's weight to ensure she maintains a healthy weight throughout pregnancy

Never give a calcium supplement during pregnancy (this can actually cause milk fever)

Treatment:

- A special form of calcium is given directly into the bitch's bloodstream.
- Pups should immediately be weaned and bottle-fed to reduce the calcium drain on the bitch and help prevent recurrence of milk fever
- Feed the bitch a good quality puppy food
- Oral calcium supplementation

Contact the clinic **immediately** if your dog is showing signs of milk fever: **0357 214 000**.