

**October  
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# Rhodes Vet Clinic

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**Newsletter**

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## Pink Eye

It has been the driest September ever, according to the Colac Herald this week. This should ring some obvious alarm bells for you all.

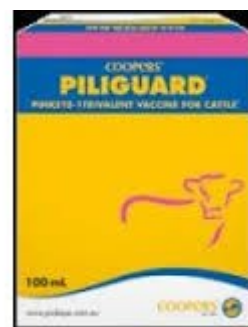
For me the biggest bell ringing is PINK EYE!

I suggest that you think about giving your calves a pink eye vaccination now to reduce the inevitable pink eye that will occur.

Dry weather brings flies and with flies comes the bacteria, *Moraxella Bovis*. We know what economic impact happens when your export cattle get the disease, together with the money spent on treatment and the time it takes to treat the animals.

If you find that your cattle have symptoms of pink eye that are not responding to treatment then the cause may not be *Moraxella Bovis* but caused by a virus, Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis (IBR). If this is the case then it is important to swab the eye to determine what the underlying problem is that is causing the eye to weep.

SO... the take home message is to vaccinate early, (\$4.20/dose) and not wait for the first case. If you have no response to treatment then look for an alternative cause.



### We provide:

- Surgery & Medicine for both small and large animals
- Soft Tissue & Orthopaedic Surgery
- Dentistry
- X-ray & Ultrasound
- In House Blood Testing
- Nutrition & Prescription Diets
- Microchip Identification

**Simpson Office:**

Our Simpson Office is open  
Monday, Wednesday, Friday  
10am to 3pm  
P: 03 5594 3257

**Colac Office:**

Our Colac Office is open  
Monday to Friday  
8am to 6pm  
Saturday 9am to 12 noon  
www.rhodesveterinaryclinic.com.au

**We are available 24/7  
for emergencies.  
Our emergency number  
is:**

**5232 2111**



# Keep Pets off “Death Row”

Every year in Australia over 200,000 pets are euthanased in pounds and shelters. Some of these animals are unsuitable for adoption due to health problems or behavioural issues. There is a long term shortage of appropriate homes for companion animals.

Over one third of dogs and two thirds of cats presented to RSPCA shelters are euthanased. This problem is very complex and responsible ownership is an important part of the solution. How can you help?

- Adopt, don't shop. Don't support pet shops selling animals unless they are re-homed shelter pets. The local pound often has pets for re-homing. Contact rescue organisations if you are looking for a certain breed.
- Have your pets well identified so if they are lost they can be easily returned. Have a collar and tags and a microchip. Make sure microchip contact details are kept up to date. Call Central Animal records (CAR) to update your information (Phone 03 9706 3187)
- Support organisations like RSPCA and Oscars law that are working hard every day on this problem.
- Early desexing of your pets (10-16 weeks old). Female cats can become pregnant as early as four months. Approximately 20% of cats have had a litter before desexing. If abandoned animals do not find their way to a shelter they are left on the streets to fend for themselves and in time will produce their own offspring leading to more homeless animals.
- Do not feed a stray cat unless you also take responsibility and desex it too. By feeding stray cat you contribute to the overpopulation problem. Stray cats also spread disease and fight with owned cats. A recent survey revealed that 22% of Victorians fed a cat that didn't belong to them.
- Desex puppies or kittens before they go to their new home. Kittens can be done at approx 8 weeks or at one kg weight. Most puppies can be done at 10 weeks or 2kg. Accidental pregnancies are a big part of the problem.



**Australians love dogs and cats. These companion animals are often our best friends and beloved family members. Over one in three Australian households include a dog, and one in four is home to a cat. Yet sadly, not every dog and cat in Australia finds a loving home. Do your bit to prevent the over population. Adopt when you can and desex your pets at an early age.**



**Thank you to all who joined us in our weekly footy tipping. We congratulate the winners and look forward to it all again next season!**

1. Shannon	145	6. Alan	133
2. Scott W	139	7. Tigga	133
3. Colin S	139	8. Nathan	132
4. Tom	137	9. Kosta	132
5. Cindy	134	10. Janine	131