

**December  
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# Rhodes Vet Clinic



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**Newsletter**

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## **IBR— Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis (Herpes Virus)**

There are a number of ways that IBR can show up, the most common way is when we are asked a question about sick cows not responding to antibiotics!

**In the Milking herd:** Cows and heifers routinely have a pronounced milk drop and have a high temperature. Occasionally they can be quite ill. Treatment makes little difference. After about 2 weeks they will slowly improve regardless. It may recur when they are stressed (its herpes after all and herpes is for life!) Keep in mind that IBR can pre-dispose to LDA's and other problems due to decreased feed intake.

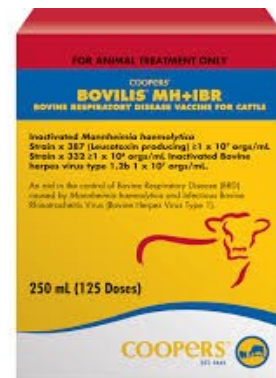
**In the Calf shed:** Calves will typically go downhill over 48 hours. You may initially notice they don't drink as well and breath faster and then they become lethargic and slowly fade to death. Usually we get a call saying they are just dropping dead, with no scour, no dehydration and no response to antibiotics. It will go through the shed like wildfire.

Other ways it shows up: abortion (if early abortion may show as late returns or more than expected empty cows), out of season pink eye and snotty noses (esp yearlings), vaginitis in cows and balanoposthitis (infection of the penis and prepuce) in bulls.

**So how do we diagnose this once we have a suspicion? Blood test**

**How do we stop it? Vaccinate (immediately!)**

At approximately \$11 a dose per cow it is not the cheapest vaccine but the cost of dead calves/ sick cows/ milk loss is far higher. Each animal requires 2 doses, 1 month apart and then an annual booster. Calves can be vaccinated from 6 weeks of age. If vaccinating the whole herd is not an option due to expense, **have a chat to us** and we can work out a plan for your herd to strategically vaccinate the most at risk animals.



### **We provide:**

- Surgery & Medicine for small and large animals
- Herd Health Advice
- Soft Tissue & Orthopaedic Surgery
- Dentistry
- Digital 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**

## When It's Time To Say Goodbye ....

Saying good bye is a difficult part of owning a pet. We are fortunate that we are able to give our pets a peaceful and kind ending to their life. Deciding when is the "right time" is something that we often discuss with pet owners. In most cases animals will let you know that they are unhappy, not coping or going downhill. Generally, their appetite will suffer and they may completely stop eating. They may also stop taking themselves out to toilet. If an older pet has not eaten for more than a day and doesn't want to get out of their bed, then their quality of life is poor and some decisions need to be made. It's part of being a good owner to make the tough decisions at this time.



When you bring your pet for Euthanasia you may stay and be with your pet during the procedure if you wish. It involves an injection into the vein which requires good lighting and visualisation. Usually the hair needs to be clipped on the leg to allow the vein to be easily seen. A nurse will hold the pet so that the vein can easily be accessed by the vet. This is why we prefer to administer this procedure in the Clinic. You may pat and talk to your pet while this is done. The injection is an over dose of an anaesthetic so your pet will quickly fall asleep then pass away quietly over the next one or two minutes. You may stay with your pet as long as you wish afterwards.



You may take your pet home for burial or it can be left here for mass burial. Otherwise there is the option of cremation. The bodies are picked up from the clinic. We have used the same company for the cremation for many years and they have always been very prompt and professional. They offer many options for the ashes including engraved boxes or cylinders that can be personalised with your own wording. The ashes are usually returned to the clinic within a week.

It helps to have thought about what you might like prior to this visit as it is a very emotional time to be making all the decisions. If you have any further questions on this topic then please ask any of our staff.



S4 prescription meds are prescribed by a Vet and the Vet MUST have been on your property within the past twelve months. Your Dr needs to see you to prescribe these meds and we must see your animal.



When paying money directly into our bank account please use your Surname and client number, (located at the bottom of your account)

*Management & Staff of Rhodes Veterinary Clinic*

*wish all our valued clients a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.*

*We thank you for your patronage and look forward to seeing you again in 2017!*

*A special thanks to our Vet Students, Jane and David, who have been around the Clinic over the past month assisting our Vets.*