

**February
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Rhodes Vet Clinic



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Newsletter

Congestive Heart Failure

Rhodes Veterinary Clinic
74 Gellibrand Street
COLAC 3250
P: 03 5232 2111
F: 03 5231 5892
E: info@rhodesvet.com.au

Veterinarians:

Dr Michael Rhodes
Dr Jess Thomas
Dr Peter Grieve

Practice Manager:

Cindy Schoell

Nurses:

Kirsty Paton
Kaylene Swayn
Diane O'Keeffe
Leanne Haslem

Your teenage dog is not able to run, jump, play or move like he/she did before? The dog may also be drinking a lot more and has a persistent cough?

A visit to your Vet diagnoses a heart problem. This diagnosis explains all the symptoms.

Medication is provided and your dog improves! Along comes a 40 degree day and all our good work goes out the door in a instant. The dog is now looking poorly. Why?



Dogs are unable to sweat. They can only dissipate heat by panting. Panting allows air to pass over the tongue. The tongue acts like an evaporative cooler.

When the dog is healthy this cooling system works like a charm BUT if we have heart problems the panting will cause the heart rate to elevate as it is trying to pump more blood around the body. This means more blood flow to the tongue and so more heat loss will occur through evaporation.

The heart then has to work harder and this is not a good idea if the heart is damaged and under stress.

On hot days we must keep our dogs cool. Cold towels, cool baths, ice in the water, air conditioning ALL help to maintain a lower temperature and this reduces panting and therefore the heart is not working as hard.

STAY COOL!



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 & 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

BVDV— Bovine Viral Diarrhoea Virus

Bovine Viral Diarrhoea Virus otherwise known as Pesti-virus or known locally as 3 day sickness.

As named BVDV it predominately causes diarrhoea in adult cattle when they are exposed to the virus for the first time. Approximately 70-90% of cattle infected will show no clinical signs of the disease, but those who do may show signs of an elevated temperature, have low production, develop mastitis, be mildly depressed, inappetence, ulceration of the nose, mouth, eyes, vagina and occasionally a snotty nose. In non-pregnant dry cattle under normal grazing conditions the impact of BVDV is insignificant.

However, when cattle are mating, pregnant or lactating and also in young stock there can be more serious implications:

- They can stop cycling if infected 1-2 weeks before joining or during joining, thus reducing pregnancy. It can also infect bulls and they can infect cows via their semen.
- Early abortion is possible if infected during early pregnancy or later in pregnancy cows can have abortions, abnormal calves or the pregnancy can be unaffected.
- If cows become affected at the start of lactation this can put them off their milk and they may never reach peak lactation.
- Young calves will tend to get a high temperature +/- respiratory disease or scour. The BVDV itself is rarely fatal but the secondary bacterial and viral infections that follow can be disastrous. This becomes less severe as they mature but up until about 12 months of age is a serious issue requiring intervention. Occasionally the same issue of secondary infection with bacteria and/or viruses can occur in adult cattle usually under high stress conditions e.g. extreme weather or feedlots

So how to figure out if you have BVDV? If you are a dairy farmer the company who makes the vaccine will usually conduct a test on a milk vat sample for free - this will give you an idea of if your cows have antibodies and if infection is recent (lots of antibodies) or not. This is a good first port of call. For beef systems and dry cows blood tests are where it is at. Ear notching is the most common sample used to detect persistently infected cattle and can be done any time from birth.

Once you know where your herd stands immunity wise you can decide how to manage risk. You can do nothing, buy from vaccinated herds, vaccinating the most at risk stock or vaccinate your whole herd. Obviously management will vary farm to farm so please do talk to us about your situation.

For more detailed information this is a useful resource:

https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0015/226041/Bovine-pestivirus-infection.pdf



2018 AFL Footy is back next month....

Join us in our weekly tipping competition for the AFL season

Tips must be either emailed (cindy@rhodesvet.com.au), faxed (5231 5892) or delivered to the clinic by 5pm on the day of the first game of each round.

If tips are not received by the closing time you will receive the week's lowest tipping result less one point.
Tips will not be accepted by telephone.

We will accept several entries from each house if more than one person wishes to participate
.... just ensure the tips are named.

The leader board will be emailed out to participants weekly.

Please advise us ASAP if you wish to participate.
There is a small cost of \$1/round or \$23 for the season.

As per other seasons we will have a small get together at the end of the season to present the winning tippers with their rewards