

**March
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Rhodes Vet Clinic



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Newsletter**

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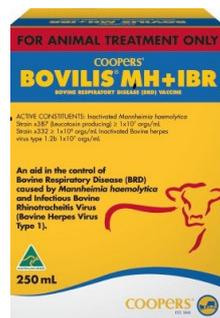
Christine Burgin
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Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis (IBR)

The dreaded disease infectious bovine rhinotracheitis (IBR) is caused by a virus of the family Herpes. It causes a characteristic nasal discharge, rhinitis, tracheitis, conjunctivitis and fever. The cow recovers from this infection quickly providing other infections are not present. This however is usually not the case.

The IBR gets a toe hold in the cow allowing other bacterial infections to run wild. This ends up with the cow showing signs of pneumonia which subsequently require treatment. Infected cattle can excrete the virus for sometime after recovering from the disease symptoms and therefore risking other members of the herd. It is a disease that spreads easily among your cattle.

There is no treatment that will cure a cow that is showing classical signs of IBR disease. The best way to get on top of the problem is prevention! This is done by using Bovilis MH+IBR vaccine. It requires two doses, a month to six weeks apart. If given prior to calving the vaccine will provide antibodies in the colostrum which, when fed to the calf, will help reduce respiratory disease in the calf for the first four months of



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 to Friday
10am to 3pm
P: 03 5594 3257
F: 03 5594 3339

Colac Office:

Our Colac Office is open
Monday to Friday
8am to 6pm
Saturday 9am to 12 noon
Sunday 11am to 12 noon



We are available 24/7 for emergencies.

Our emergency number is:

5232 2111



Fitting (Seizures) in Pets

There are a number of circumstances where we see pets that have been having fits or seizures. The common cause of fits are epilepsy, poisons or heart problems.

Epilepsy often first shows up when pets are between one and five years old. A typical epileptic fit has three stages; the first when the pet is a bit clingy or anxious; the second is where there is muscle activity (which can vary from just walking around dazed to a full on shaking and twitching while lying on their side); the third stage is where they are recovering from the fit and may be panting and a bit tired.

After the third stage the pet often seems to be completely back to normal as if nothing has happened. Sometimes they will get overheated when fitting and need cooling down with wet towels.

In contrast fitting due to poisons does not have three stages and animals do not spontaneously recover. They may continue to shiver and shake and drool for some time. Poisoning from snail baits and over dosing from some flea products are common causes of fitting or muscle tremors.

Some dogs with heart problems can have fit like episodes. This usually happens when they over exert themselves and run out of oxygen. They may shake, scream out and then fall down. They often recover spontaneously over a minute or two.

All pets that have a seizure need to be seen by a Vet to determine possible causes. Pets with epilepsy can be treated with medications if the fits are occurring often or are long lasting fits. Small infrequent fits are often managed without medications.

Pets that are showing signs of being poisoned need urgent veterinary attention. The poison needs to be flushed out of their system as soon as possible. Sedation is often required to stop the seizures. Dogs that have heart problems can often be managed successfully with a combination of medications.



Footy is back this month!

Last chance to join us in our weekly tipping competition for the AFL season which begins again this month!



Tips must be either emailed, faxed or delivered to the clinic by 5pm on the day of the first game of each round.

Please advise us ASAP before the season starts if you wish to participate.