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# Rhodes Vet Clinic

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**Newsletter**

## Farm Biosecurity

Rhodes Veterinary Clinic  
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### We provide:

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

We all hear about it but do we do anything to ensure our on farm biosecurity?

Biosecurity is a process to reduce the risk of introducing and spreading animal disease into your dairy herd, beef herd, sheep flock or poultry farm.

The risk of introducing disease can be reduced by asking the right questions before any animals are brought onto the farm. Questions such as:

1. What is your BJD status?
2. Have your animals been vaccinated? If so when and with what vaccines?
3. Have they had a history of dry cow? (if cows are lactating)
4. If you are leasing bulls, have they been vibrio vaccinated?

There is nothing more frustrating to go onto a farm that has had a sudden outbreak of disease only to work out that an infected animal was placed directly into the herd.

New animals should be segregated and observed for any illness or signs of illness before entering the herd.

This is particularly important if new calves are being brought in. Have an area well away from the replacement calf area and leave the new brought in calves in a pen for 7 to 10 days. If a calf is going to show any clinical signs they will show in this time frame.

Remember to not go from your brought in calves to your own calves without good hygiene, washing hands and cleaning boots, apron etc.

It is also important to remove any dead animals as soon as possible, trying not to spread any disease across your farm. Have disposal areas that are secured and contained to prevent access by livestock, domestic animals, feral animals and wildlife. It is not a good idea to allow your four legged friend to pull apart a dead calf and drag it all around the property spreading disease!

This will help you have better control of your farm biosecurity.

Further information can be found at [www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au](http://www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au)

**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

Our emergency number is:

**5232 2111**

We are available 24/7 for emergencies.

## Dietary Changes



Throughout an animal's life there are often times of dietary change. The diet will change from a puppy or kitten diet to an adult diet as they reach maturity. Older pets may need a change in diet due to weight gain or weight loss. Dietary change may be necessary to manage health problems such as urinary crystals in cats, diabetes, joint problems and allergies.

Young animals are usually on a high calorie diet and frequent feeding due to their rapid growth rate. Try to feed very good quality food that is designed for young animals. Adult food is not suitable until 8-12 months old. Most puppies and kittens are fine to feed ad lib. You might like to leave out some dry food for them to snack on throughout the day. As they get older you can cut back from 4 meals a day to one or two.

Older pets may become less active and gain weight and therefore need to switch to a "lite" formula food. Some older pets may suffer from joint problems which can benefit from supplements to their diet. Older cats often lose weight and become frail. Some of these will do better on a kitten food. We often find old dogs don't digest bones as well and suffer constipation. These dogs need to have bones removed from their diet and replaced by other chews such as rawhide.

In the last week we have had two cats suffering from urinary problems due to a change in their dry food. Lower quality dry food

is one of the factors involved in causing Feline Lower Urinary Tract Disease (FLUTD). In this condition crystals form in the bladder and contribute to infection and in male cats can cause a blockage. Great care must be taken when switching dry food for cats. Mix the new and old food for at least a few days before changing over. Cats do not like change and are often resistant to a change in diet. Good quality cat dry food is money well spent as the incidence of FLUTD in cats on high quality dry food is much less. Some cats with this problem may need to go onto a prescription diet to prevent reoccurrence.

Many health problems can be partially managed with diet. Those recovering from gastroenteritis are often on a bland diet of boiled chicken and rice. We have several older pets that are on prescription foods to manage problems with the liver or kidneys or diabetes.

If you are considering changing your pet's diet we are happy to help with advice on how to manage this change successfully. A healthy diet is a cornerstone to a happy healthy pet!



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... mention you have read  
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off any flea product purchase!



*With Sympathy*

Our deepest sympathy to the Atkinson & Evans families. Lynne was a courageous lady who put up a fight right to the end.. Rest in peace Lynne. We will miss you! xx