

**August  
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# Rhodes Vet Clinic

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**Newsletter**

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## AUGUST IS DENTAL MONTH



**Signs of Dental problems:**

- Bad breath
- Tartar on teeth (brown)
- Red gums
- Loose teeth
- Trouble eating
- Weight loss



Dental problems can be a source of pain for your pets. Often dental work under anaesthetic and extractions are required. Early intervention can often prevent more extensive problems.

During Dental Month we offer free dental checks, samples and advice on good management of teeth.



**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**

# Hypothermia

## What is it & Why is it important

If an animal has hypothermia it simply means that the animal is too cold to function properly. If they get too cold they will die. In cattle the normal rectal temperature range is 38- 39° C, however on a very hot or very cold day 0.5° C variation may be acceptable (ie 37.5 on a very cold day or 39.5 on a very hot day). Once the temperature is below 37° C the cow's body will cease to function normally, as she becomes colder her body progressively shuts down and death will eventually occur.



Hypothermia is a common problem in downer cows. This occurs for many reasons:

- \* Not eating and drinking- The rumen produces a large amount of heat, once it stops working so does the heat production.
- \* Milk fever - Calcium is required to contract muscles, so when she is low in calcium not only will she become weak and unable to get up but she won't be able to shiver!
- \* Laying on a cold surface - The ground gets very cold especially overnight.
- \* Not moving about - She won't be generating any heat this way either.

Some notes on downer cow management:

- Get to her as soon as you notice her in the morning, by time the sun has come up and you have finished milking her temperature is likely to have dropped at least a degree further!

- If a bag of 4 in 1 isn't enough to get her up:

- \* Ensure food and water are within easy reach of where she is laying.
- \* Put a cow rug on her. If you do not have one use silage wrapping, a tarp, blankets, horse rugs, hessian bags, empty feed bags etc. This will help stop her getting any colder.
- \* If her nose is cold to the touch or if you have a thermometer and she is below 36° C (thermometers often won't give a reading below 32-33° C), then you will need to actively warm her using hot water bottles or old 2L milk/soft drink bottles filled with hot water tucked under her rug.
- \* Lift her as soon as you can- often they will be able to maintain standing once they are up and all the pins and needles are out of their legs.
- \* Try and get her off cold wet soil and sitting on a bed of straw/hay to act as an insulator.
- \* An old electric blanket switched to 3 really heats them up but make sure she is under cover. Electricity and water is a tad shocking!



## Footy Tipping Ladder

With only 5 rounds left to play the leader board is very tight!

1. Cindy	112	5. Sharon	108
2. Alan	112	6. Mike	106
3. Colin	111	7. Nathan	106
4. Tom	110	8. Kosta	106