

Happy  
New Year  
2017

January  
2017

# Rhodes Vet Clinic

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Newsletter

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## FLIES! SULTRY WEATHER! HEAT!

You guessed it... PINK EYE perfect condition!

There are two types of causes of pink eye.

The first is caused by a bacteria *Moraxella Bovis* and the second is due to a Herpes viral infection—IBR (see last month's Newsletter)

At this time of the year the bacteria is the main cause of infection. This is principally due to heavy fly infestation. The flies congregate around the eyes of the cattle because the eyes are weeping with tears. The bacteria comes from the flies and this contaminates the eyes and then the cattle show the classic pink eye signs.

It is very important that you control fly population and spreading—

- .. Use products such as Arrest to deter flies from the cattle
- .. Try not to feed cattle in close proximity ( eg hay rings)
- .. Move cattle to less contaminated pastures ( eg less faecal pats in paddocks)
- .. Use insecticide around dairy / cattle yards to kill flies
- .. Be vigilant and treat infected animals with ointment and eye patches as soon as you can to reduce cross contamination

If you can control the fly population it will help reduce your pink eye problems!

### 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



**Management & Staff of  
Rhodes Veterinary Clinic  
wish all our valued clients  
a very safe and Happy New Year.**

#### Simpson Office:

Our Simpson Office is  
CLOSED for the month of  
January.

#### Colac Office:

Our Colac Office is open  
Monday to Friday  
8am to 6pm  
Saturday 9am to 12 noon  
[www.rhodesveterinaryclinic.com.au](http://www.rhodesveterinaryclinic.com.au)

**We are available 24/7  
for emergencies.  
Our emergency number  
is:**

**5232 2111**

## Rabbits

The new strain of Calicivirus has arrived in the area. Unfortunately there is presently no vaccine for this strain.

To prevent your rabbits coming into contact with the Calicivirus or Myxomatosis (which has no vaccine available) please ensure no possible contact with either mosquitos or other rabbits.

Fly screen stapled onto outside cages is often effective. Rabbits that are kept indoors are safest. If they go outside, try to avoid times of day when mozzies are out and cover them with human mozzie repellent.

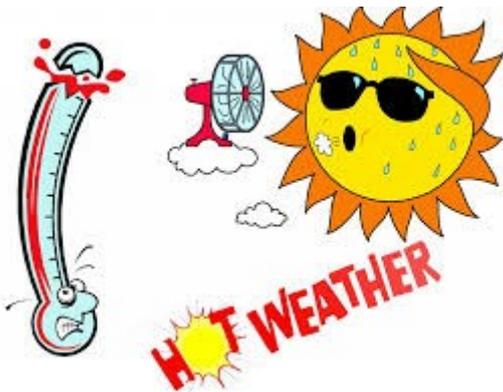
Pet rabbits have little or no immunity to either Calicivirus or Myxomatosis. Symptoms of the infection may either be sudden death or swollen eyes and ears and poor appetite for a few days before death. If your rabbit has these signs the kindest option is usually euthanasia.

Please also ensure that rabbits are kept cool in hot weather. They are very prone to death from heat stress. Frozen milk bottles in their cage often work quite well or keep inside with air conditioning.

Please contact the Clinic if you have any questions about your rabbits.



## Hot weather ...



Many of our pets don't cope well in the heat.

Plan ahead in the heat so your pet can stay cool. Make sure they have a shady spot or if possible can be inside in front of a fan or air conditioner. You can put ice cubes in their water bowls.

Hosing them down or covering in wet towels can help to rapidly cool them down.

If your pet is on heart tablets, diuretics or cortisone / steroids they will be more stressed in the heat.

Limit exercise or walks to the cool part of the day. Be careful not to walk them on hot surfaces as pads can easily be scolded.

If you are concerned that your pet is dehydrated then please visit the clinic as they may need intravenous fluids.