

October  
2012

# Rhodes Vet Clinic

Volume 2  
Issue 10

Newsletter

Rhodes Veterinary Clinic  
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#### Veterinarians:

Dr Michael Rhodes  
Dr Cate Watt  
Dr Niall Jackson

#### Practice Manager:

Cindy Schoell

#### Nurses:

Kirsty Paton  
Lauren Price

#### Simpson:

Christine Burgin  
Kim Henderson

#### 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

## Kennel Cough

We have had a recent increase in the number of cases of kennel cough coming into the clinic. Typically these patients have a loud barking cough and sometimes dry retch or cough up some frothy mucous.

Kennel cough is caused by the bacteria *Bordetella bronchiseptica* or the virus *Parainfluenza*. Many cases involve a mixed infection of the virus and the bacteria.

Symptoms usually start suddenly. Sometimes the dog is a little lethargic and may not want to eat. Sometimes they will be running a temperature. However, in many cases,

the dog seems perfectly normal except for the cough. Kennel cough is EXTREMELY contagious! The incubation time is about 4 days from exposure to the infection until coughing starts.

Dogs that are vaccinated against kennel cough each year have fairly good protection. Occasionally vaccinated dogs will pick up a cough but this usually only lasts for a few days. Unvaccinated dogs often have a more severe infection and may cough for 6 to 8 weeks. Unfortunately the name "kennel cough" is misleading as dogs can definitely pick up kennel

cough without visiting boarding kennels. The infection is spread in the air and does not require "nose to nose" contact to be transmitted. The infection can easily spread through any neighbourhood, up to a 1km radius.

Treatment of kennel cough sometimes involves medication and cough mixture but often it is just a matter of the infection running its course.

The C5 Vaccination is available at our clinic at only a small extra cost compared with the basic C3 vaccine. We recommend that anyone that lives in town should have their dogs vaccinated with a C5 vaccine

#### Clinic Hours:

##### 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.

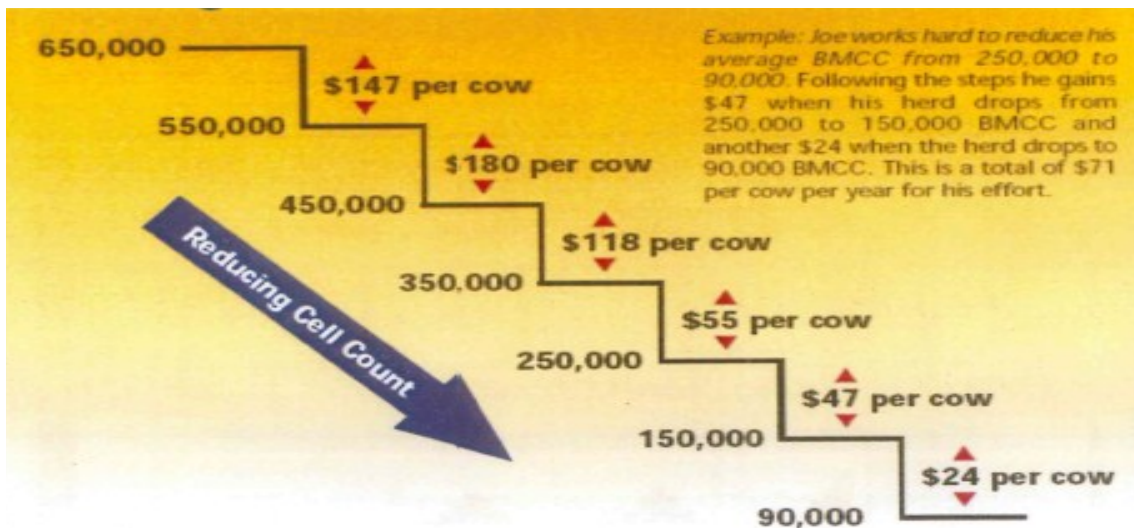
Our emergency number is:  
**5232 2111**

# Benefits of Lower Cell Counts

Countdown has developed an economic model of Australian farms, showing the net gains from lowering the annual average Bulk Milk Cell Counts (BMCC).

The step diagram shows the net return per cow per year for reductions in the herd's annual average BMCC, in steps of 100,000 cells per ml. This net return is based on 2003 data. Countdown is currently updating the model to incorporate current pricing for milk and mastitis control costs.

The returns are calculated after taking into account benefits (such as improved milk production, additional quality premiums, and reduced cost of clinical treatments), net of the costs of preventative mastitis strategies. In this example the model has been set for typical split calving herds using a typical dairy processor's payment system. The net return reflects return per cow when a herd achieves a specified annual average BMCC over a 12 month period. It does not reflect the costs associated with shifting down to that level of annual BMMC.



## Farewell Niall

Dr Niall Jackson leaves our shores, bound for home this month. We thank Niall for spending time with us and wish him a safe trip back to Ireland.



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