

**September  
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# Rhodes Vet Clinic

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**Newsletter**

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## **IBR - INFECTIOUS BOVINE RHINOTRACHEITIS (herpes virus)**

IBR is a Bovine Herpes Virus type 1 and it most commonly causes upper respiratory tract disease ranging from a snotty nose through to severe pneumonia, accompanied with a drop in milk yield which can last for about two weeks.

As it is caused by a virus it **does not respond to antibiotic treatment.**

IBR can present as conjunctivitis, often looking like a pink eye but at the wrong time of the year and normally doesn't respond to treatment. In pregnant cows IBR can cause abortion. Occasionally infectious pustular vaginitis is seen in cows and in corresponding lesions on the bull's penis. Adult cattle will generally recover from infection with time and supportive care.

IBR causes the biggest problem in calves, where it can cause severe fever, pneumonia, often diarrhoea and death. Due to the weakened state of the calves secondary bacterial and viral infections are common and **IBR is often fatal in young calves.**

Calves may be born infected if their mothers were infected towards the end of pregnancy. The virus spreads very quickly through a calf shed, because it is airborne and highly infectious.

### How do we prevent it?

**Vaccination!** Cows need to be vaccinated 8 weeks before calving. Calves can be vaccinated but they need to be old enough to have an adult immune system. Whilst they are still young enough to be relying on the antibodies in the colostrum the vaccine will not work. The trouble is that most problems in calves happen in the first weeks of life. To protect the calves the mothers need to have been vaccinated to ensure that there are adequate antibodies in the colostrum.

One should separate infected calves away from all other calves in another shed. Remember it is an airborne disease so a small partition between infected and non-infected is useless!



### **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**

## ANAL GLANDS

Dogs and cats have glands next to their bottom called anal glands. They are a scent gland that can be released when stressed. Normally they contain a small amount of very smelly brown fluid.

We often need to manually express the anal glands when they have not emptied.

It is unusual for cats to have problems with anal glands but is very common in dogs.

Most dogs and cats manage to empty their own glands but others can become blocked.

The symptoms of having blocked or infected anal glands are scooting or dragging the bottom, licking the bottom or a foul smell.

When left untreated anal glands can abscess and burst which is very painful.

Long courses of antibiotics and regular visits are often required. When anal gland problems are recurrent surgical removal may be recommended.

For most dogs having the anal glands expressed regularly prevents more serious problems. The length of time between expressing depends on the individual dog. Some are ok for months at a time but others need to be done once monthly.



**SPECIAL FOR SEPTEMBER ONLY  
20% OFF ALL FLEA PRODUCTS  
PREPARE FOR THE WARMER  
MONTHS AHEAD**



## Footy Tipping

With only ONE week to go the ladder has been withheld. The winners will be announced on our Facebook page and in next month's Newsletter

Good luck to you if your team is heading for finals glory!  
Comms to you if your team is about to begin holidays!