

**April
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Rhodes Vet Clinic

**Volume 10
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Newsletter

COVID—19

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Our lives as we knew them have changed! At this stage veterinary practices can remain open and we can continue to provide our usual services. This may change in the future, but we will keep you updated via our Facebook page.

Please be patient as we continue to work through this pandemic. We have reduced the number of Staff in our building at any one time. Our full team is available to service your needs but they may not necessarily be in the Clinic at any one time. We are all available by telephone and appointments as scheduled.

To continue to stay open we need to follow recommendations on risk minimisation and physical distancing. **We MUST only allow TWO clients in our reception rooms AT ANY ONE TIME.** If this is not adhered to we will have no choice but to lock our front doors and allow you in, one at a time.

**Please phone 5232 2111 ahead and make a booking for everything
- STRICTLY NO WALK INS.**

This includes surgery drop offs, pet pick up and large and small animal drug collections. Please call with your request and organise a time for you to arrive at the Clinic. This is to allow us to have one client in each waiting room at any one time.

Please bring minimal people to each appointment- normally we love kids being involved in their pet's care, but at this time, please try to keep to one person per appointment.

Please use the hand sanitiser provided and try to keep at least 1.5m away from us (and we will do the same)

For those who would be more comfortable not entering the clinic we are very happy to do consultations in the car park and do payments over the phone. Please notify us of this at time of booking.

If you have pets on long term medications (heart, arthritis, diabetes, skin, hyperthyroid cats, prescription diets) please ensure you have 2 weeks of medications on hand, but please don't hoard. At the moment our suppliers are open and we are business as usual. However with the constantly changing situation this could change. If you require medication make sure you give us adequate time to get them for you. If you plan ahead, we may be able to arrange a delivery of these meds to most of you.

The Vet board has ruled that for this pandemic emergency, we can do telephone (or facetime/skype) consults where face to face consults are not appropriate. This is for Clients who are in quarantine, in self isolation or who are in the high risk group. However, we do need to have seen your pet before.

Where this is deemed to be insufficient to manage the case we can mask, glove and gown and get the pet off you from your car and then return it to you after examination/treatment.

Please do not hesitate to call us if you have any concerns. Stay safe everyone!

We provide:

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

Simpson Office:

Please call 5232 2111
Orders will
be delivered to the
Simpson Clinic daily

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**

Bull Fertility Testing

If you have had poor pregnancy testing results in the past or are worried that your bull team isn't performing as they should, we at Rhodes Veterinary Clinic can offer fertility assessments of your bull team.

What is involved in a Bull Breeding Soundness Examination (BBSE)?

1. A general physical examination including structure (conformation) and upper reproductive tract
2. An examination of the testes and measurement of scrotal size
3. A serving assessment to evaluate libido and mating ability
4. Collection and assessment of a semen sample
5. Laboratory examination of sperm morphology.



Why should I get my bulls tested?

Depending on breed and age, on average 10-20% of bulls will have a large enough issue that they will fail the examination and therefore unlikely to get cows in calf.

The most common issues we find include penis problems in either shape or ability to extrude from the prepuce. The other common issue we find is a problem with sperm which can be a lack of sperm or that a bull produces sperm that have multiple defects.

Before purchasing an expensive bull we would recommend fertility testing to make sure he is capable of doing the required job.

Prevention is always better than dealing with a problem like lots of empty cows, so make sure your bull teams are fit and healthy before going out to work.

Pets and COVID - 19

At this stage there are 3 cases of pets testing positive to COVID - 19, all of which appear to be due to humans infecting pets.

Two dogs have been tested positive in Hong Kong but neither had clinical signs of the disease. Nor was infectious virus isolated from the dogs, ie they were not able to transmit the disease to humans.

On Friday 27 March it was reported that a pet cat in Belgium has tested positive for the virus. The cat's owner had been ill with the virus for a week prior. The cat had diarrhoea, vomiting and had breathing difficulties though we do not know if the symptoms were due to COVID -19 or a concurrent illness.

This is 3 cases out of over 4000 pets that have been tested world wide and so it appears to be exceedingly rare.

There is still no indication that pets can infect humans, or play any role in the spread of this disease .

The main risk we see with pets (mainly at the clinic) is that they can become contaminated with the virus. Much like fabrics, pets can harbour the virus for 3+ days on their skin and hair.

Thus unless an infected person (or 'possibly infected' ie quarantined post travel or possible exposure) has been in contact / breathed on / coughed or sneezed on your pet, there is no evidence that your pet can transmit it to you or us.

If you think your pet may have been contaminated please tell us when you phone to make your appointment. If we all get sick there will be no vet available and we do not want to pass it onto any of our other clients.

So with this in mind if you or a family member are potentially infected please be diligent about washing your hands before and after handling your pet as well as their food and water bowls and don't let them lick your face!

