

**July
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Rhodes Vet Clinic

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Newsletter

Microchipping Update

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Please be advised that there are now new regulations regarding the microchipping of cats and dogs born after the 1st July 2020.

The Pet Exchange Register source number of a dog or cat must now be included on the microchip registration form. The source number is the same number that is currently required when advertising any dog or cat for rehoming or for sale.

If you do not have a source number you may obtain one via the Pet Exchange Register at <https://per.animalwelfare.vic.gov.au/>. A source number is valid for one year and can be renewed annually for as long as you need it.

Answers to FAQ can be found here: <http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/pets/registration-legislation-and-permits/microchipping-of-dogs-cats-and-horses/microchipping-information-for-authorised-implanters>

Any other queries please contact us. This is as new to us as it is to you!



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

Mastitis Diagnostcs

My cow has mastitis.... why do I need to diagnose which bug is causing it? Why can't I just treat it?

We usually do recommend treatment whilst waiting for lab results. However it is pretty handy to find out which pathogen you are dealing with. We recommend that some diagnostics are run each lactation, as what you have on farm will not always be the same season to season. We all know one of the greatest drivers of farm profitability is bulk milk cell count!



Herd Testing: Individual Cow Cell Counts will not tell you what pathogen the cow has or what drugs will work but they will tell you which cows are high shedders and so are sub clinically infected. These are usually the cows pushing your cell count up and profits down. By identifying these cows you can address the issue by testing and treating, culling, or drying off early depending on your situation.

Milk culture: Will tell you what pathogen and what antibiotics it will respond to. This is great for individual cows. In an outbreak or treatment failure situation, ideally 10 samples are collected from untreated cows (samples can be frozen after collection if you want to send them all at once). The results will detail which pathogen was cultured and what antibiotics it responded to in the Lab. Correct collection technique is important to avoid contamination from the teat end which can cause incorrect results.

PCR: Can be run on individual samples but most effective when run on a vat sample. This test detects bits of the pathogens DNA. It is useful for identifying what pathogens are on the farm and can be used to direct outbreak management as it is quicker than culture and sensitivity testing. However it will not tell us which antibiotics the pathogens are sensitive to.

Dairy Antibiogram: This is a new test that is run on a bulk milk tank sample and can often be run on the sample collected by your milk company. This makes it very easy to run, as we just have to request the test online. It uses culture to detect Staph aureus and Strep uberis, our two most significant mastitis pathogens. It then uses a different technique from our usual cultures (broth dilution) to work out which intramammary antibiotics will work and at what concentration. This information allows us to track development of resistance on your farm and change drugs before treatment failure occurs. The idea of this test is that it allows us to then make decisions as to the most appropriate intramammary drugs for you to use as first line treatment on your farm, knowing they will give you the highest chance of successful treatment. We would advise one test at the beginning of your milking period (or soon after each calving period eg fresh cows) and potentially another approaching dry off to help tailor dry cow therapy choice.

None of these tests are perfect or do everything but they all have their place in managing mastitis on farm, and assist with reducing antibiotic use and using antibiotics in the most responsible way possible.

