

**March  
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# Rhodes Vet Clinic

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**Newsletter**

## Swelling Of The Jaw

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It is the time of year where some cattle and sheep are showing swellings under the jaw. This is commonly known as bottle jaw. The swelling alone does not give you a diagnosis of what is going on with the animal. It is important to get a Vet to make a diagnosis in order to find out the cause. The cause of the swelling will dictate the form of treatment required.

There are many causes of bottle jaw. The most common cause this year has been caused by parasites. The parasites cause bleeding into the gut. The loss of blood causes anemia. Without this blood the body does not reabsorb fluids back into the blood vessels and therefore fluid builds up at the lowest point. This point being the jaw, as the animal lowers its head to eat.

Another cause is infection. This is usually caused by grass seeds. Grass seeds can become stuck in the side of the mouth and track down the side of the cheek. A bacterial infection occurs and the tongue starts to swell. The animal then presents with swelling under the jaw. This is called woody tongue.

The other common cause of bottle jaw is caused by a nasty disease called Johnes Disease (JD). This is a bacteria that affects the small intestine. The disease stops the bowel absorbing nutrition from the gut so it passes through the cow as a watery diarrhoea and a swelling under the jaw.



### We provide:

- Surgery & Medicine for small and large animals
- Herd Health Advice
- Cattle Pregnancy Testing
- Bull Fertility Testing
- Lameness in Cattle
- Equine Consults
- Soft Tissue & Orthopaedic Surgery
- Dentistry
- Digital X-ray
- Ultrasound
- In House Blood Testing
- Nutrition

Did you  
know?

- Cows are moving constantly during grazing and can cover 13 km per day
- Cows are very social animals and form close friendships with other animals in their herd.
- Cows have a strong sense of smell. They can perceive smells at a distance of up to 10km

**Simpson Office:**

Please call 5232 2111

[www.rhodesveterinaryclinic.com.au](http://www.rhodesveterinaryclinic.com.au)

**Colac Office:**

Monday to Friday  
8am to 6pm  
Saturday 9am to 12 noon

**We are available 24/7  
for emergencies.  
Our emergency number  
is: 5232 2111**

## Kennel Cough

Kennel cough is highly contagious and although not usually serious in nature, it does cause a horrible cough and can lead to severe infection.

The reason behind the 'waves' of cases is the highly contagious nature of kennel cough. Any place that dogs congregate or greet each other can result in transmission. Kennels, groomers, dog parks, pet-friendly housing with a high number of dogs even sharing a water bowl is close enough contact to pass it along. The virus also has the ability to travel long distances (up to approx. 5km) in the wind. When one dog contracts kennel cough, it can start to spread like wild fire.

The disease is self-limiting as the dog's immune system works to fight off the pathogens. In some pets, the cough becomes so severe that they are unable to sleep. More seriously, the infection can settle into the deeper parts of the lungs. For severe cases, antibiotics are necessary to help the pet overcome the infection and recover fully.



The benefit to vaccinating your pet against kennel cough is that should they be presented with a small amount of virus or bacteria, they will not get as sick. If they are exposed to a high amount of bacteria or virus that cause Kennel Cough, their symptoms will be milder and they will recover much faster.

Interestingly, if your pet develops kennel cough, giving the vaccine at that time, will also help them recover faster and with less severe disease.

**Farewell  
and  
Good Luck**

We have sadly farewelled Kay, one of our treasured Vet Nurses. Kay has been a valued member of the RVC team for eight years. Kay and her partner Scott have decided to embark on a sea change heading to the Sunshine Coast of QLD.

We wish them all the very best!

**Last chance to enter our AFL tipping competition!**



**Please let Cindy know by Friday, 11th March.**

Tips must be either emailed ([cindy@rhodesvet.com.au](mailto:cindy@rhodesvet.com.au)) or delivered to the clinic by 5pm on the day of the first game of each round. Tips will not be accepted by telephone.

**20% OFF**

**Desexing & Vaccinations.**

Cut coupon and bring to Clinic at time of consultation to receive 20% off.



To be paid at time of consultation.