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# Rhodes Vet Clinic

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**Newsletter**

## Bladder Stones

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We have recently had a few interesting cases of bladder stones. The stones are crystals made up of certain minerals. The stones are removed surgically. We send the stones away to the USA for analysis, at no cost to you, so we can best make a plan to prevent further problems.

Clinical signs of bladder stones include:

- Straining to pass urine
- Frequent attempts to urinate
- Abdominal discomfort
- Incontinence
- Blood in the urine
- History of stones
- Miserable dog
- Not eating



Factors that pre-dispose a pet to bladder stones:

- Urinary tract Infection
- Diets high in minerals such as calcium, phosphorus & magnesium
- Low water intake
- Breed (esp. Mini Schnauzers, Dalmatians, Yorkshire Terriers, Bulldogs)
- Gender (struvite crystals are more common in bitches and other types in males)

The first step in diagnosis is getting a fresh urine sample. It will then detect if there is blood, excess protein or infection. The next step is x-rays. Some stones will show up very well on x-rays but some will not. Air injected into the bladder will sometimes help to visualise stones.



Once the stones are removed they are sent to Canada for analysis. On receiving the results we can formulate a plan to prevent further reoccurrence. Often this is done with prescription diets and or urinary acidifier tablets. Close monitoring of urine pH and regular checking for infection is usually necessary.

If you notice your pet has any problems with urination it should be attended to rapidly as early detection of problems has the best long term outcome.

### 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

**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**

# Foot and Mouth Disease

## What is Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD)?

Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) is a highly contagious viral disease of animals. It affects cloven-hooved animals (those with divided hooves), including cattle, buffalo, camels, sheep, goats, deer and pigs. FMD virus is carried by live animals and in meat and dairy products, as well as in soil, bones, untreated hides, vehicles and equipment used with these animals. It can also be carried on people's clothing and footwear. FMD virus can survive in frozen, chilled and freeze-dried foods including meat and dairy products. It is found in many parts of the world, and has been reported in countries in Africa, the Middle East, Asia and South America. While it can cause serious production losses the most significant impact of the disease occurs because of its affect on trade in livestock and livestock products. Countries without the disease, which include many of Australia's major trading partners, do not import from or severely restrict imports from FMD-infected countries. There is no threat to human health from this disease and is not the same as hand-foot-and-mouth disease which is a common disease in young children.



## How is FMD transmitted?

FMD is a viral disease that spreads rapidly between animals. Virus is excreted in breath, saliva, mucus, milk and faeces. The virus can be excreted by animals for up to four days before clinical signs appear. Animals can become infected through inhalation, ingestion and direct contact. The disease spreads most commonly through the movement of infected animals. FMD virus can also be spread on hair, grass or straw; by the wind; or by mud or manure sticking to footwear, clothing, livestock equipment or vehicle tyres.

## What are the signs of FMD?

Signs of FMD in cattle include blisters and ulcers in and around the mouth, nose, teats and feet. Drooling, excessive salivation lameness fever sudden drop in appetite and/or milk production, abortion and can cause sudden death in young animals.

## Is there any treatment or cure for FMD?

No. Most affected animals will recover. Vaccines can protect against the disease but do not necessarily prevent animals from being infected. Vaccination is used in many countries to control the disease in an endemic situation. For a country to regain FMD-free status and limit the economic impacts, it is important to eradicate the virus as quickly as possible. Movement controls and removal of infected animals are essential to eradicate this disease. Vaccination can be an important tool to assist in containing and eradicating FMD, but its use will have trade implications.

This information and more can be found on the diary Australia website

<https://www.dairyaustralia.com.au/issues-and-emergencies/emergency-animal-disease-preparedness#.YwQAeX1ByUk>



**20% OFF**  
**Desexing & Vaccinations.**  
Cut coupon and bring to Clinic at time of  
consultation to receive 20% off.





RVC Footy Tipping

Thank you to everyone who participated in this eleventh season of RVC footy tips

Congratulations to the prize winners:

Equal First: Sharyn & Ray - 147

3rd: Josh - 145

2nd to last: Alyce - 95

Zip now, pay later **ZIP**