

**July
2023**

Rhodes Vet Clinic

**Volume 13
Issue 07**

Newsletter

Ferrets

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Did you know that a female ferret is called a Jill? Contrary to common perception, ferrets are not rodents, but belong to the mustelidae family along with badgers, weasels, minks and european polecats.

All of these animals have a very strong sent, hence their family name "muste" or musk.

The Jills are induced ovulators. This means they need a Hob (a male ferret) to be stimulated into season. Therefore, keeping your Jill away from the Hob will prevent your Jill coming into oestrus.

If the Jill is stimulated into oestrus but not mated, her estrogen levels will remain high which can lead to metabolic problems causing death.

A Jill Jab was a common form of treatment to prevent oestrus, but the medication needed has now become unavailable.

An alternative is an implant or more permanently, the Jill can be spayed, generally at the same cost as a cat spey. This permanent prevention of oestrus is relatively easy to do.

It is important to note that we would normally ask our surgery cases to fast for 12 hrs before admitting them for surgery. However, with ferrets it is important to feed them prior to surgery as they need the nutrition for their metabolism and their recovery post surgery.



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



RVC Footy Tipping Ladder

At the end of Round 15:

1. Shannon	93	6. Scott	86
2. Ray	88	7. Josh	86
3. Tracy	87	8. James	85
4. Sharyn	87	9. Ms Sugar	84
5. Len	87	10. Kylie	83

Simpson Office:

Please call 5232 2111

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**

African Swine Fever

WHAT IS AFRICAN SWINE FEVER?

African swine fever (ASF) is a highly contagious exotic disease of pigs caused by a viral infection. Different isolates of the virus can cause a range of clinical signs that vary in severity. Severe forms of the disease can lead to the death of up to 100% of a herd.

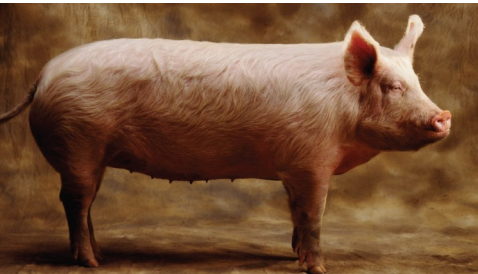
HOW IS THE VIRUS SPREAD?

ASF virus may be spread by close contact with infected pigs and pig products, or contact with pens, vehicles, equipment, feed, boots or clothing, contaminated with faeces, blood or other bodily fluids. It can also be spread in the air but this is limited to close on-farm contacts only.



WHAT SPECIES ARE AFFECTED?

Domestic and feral pigs are the only susceptible species in Australia outside zoos. Other species such as the collared peccary, the white-lipped peccary, the African warthog and the African bush pig are susceptible, but these are not present in Australia outside of zoos and other specialist animal establishments.



WHAT ARE THE CLINICAL SIGNS IN ANIMALS?

Clinical signs of ASF may include fever, loss of appetite, lethargy, weakness, reddening of the skin, rapid death, red-blue coloured blotching of the skin on the ears, tail, lower leg or thigh, abdominal pain, constipation or bloody diarrhoea, breathing difficulties, vomiting, abortions in sows and neurological signs such as convulsions.



This clinic will be **OPEN** on the following days & times:

MONDAY, 3rd July - 10am - 2pm
TUESDAY, 4th July - 10am - 2pm
WEDNESDAY, 5th July - 10am - 2pm
THURSDAY, 6th July - 10am - 2pm
FRIDAY, 7th July - 10am - 2pm
SATURDAY, 8th July - 9am - 12pm

**Normal hours & services will resume on
MONDAY, 10th July when Dr Leigh re joins us**

**With no Vet in the clinic from 1st to the 10th July the authorisation of any
S4 prescription medications will be strictly prohibited.**

**We will be available for future appointments, collection of pre-ordered medication,
flea and worm treatments, diets and any other over-the-counter supplies.**

**Thank you for your understanding and patience during this time as
we allow our hard working Dr Mike to enjoy a break.**