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# Rhodes Vet Clinic

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**Newsletter**

## Heat & Pets

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It is important to be mindful of the warmer weather as the heat can be harmful to our pets.

Taking necessary precautions to ensure our pets stay cool and safe on hot days is essential to prevent the risk of heat stroke.

Always provide plenty of cool, clean water and fill multiple water bowls in case one is knocked over. Ensure your pets always have ample shady and well ventilated areas during all parts of the day. When taking your pets with you in the car, never leave them alone in the car as the temperature can increase rapidly. Even with the windows open the temperature inside the car can be dangerous and can lead to heat stroke and brain damage.

If you know it is going to be a hot day and you won't be home, close the blinds to keep the sun out and where possible leave fans or the air-conditioning running to keep the house cool. Pets that are outside on warmer days can benefit from a shallow container of water, such as a child's paddle pool. They can sit or lie down into this to help keep them cool. Freezing some dry dog food in a container of water to make a frozen dog treat can also help on warmer days

Be mindful when exercising your dogs on hot and humid days. As your dog is much closer to the asphalt, its body can heat up very quickly and paws can sustain burns or injuries. Exercising your dogs either in the morning or later in the evening when the temperature is cooler is always best and never stray too far from fresh drinking water.



If you suspect your pet is suffering from heat stroke place your pet in a cool shady area, wetted down with cool water and a fan. Offer cool water to sip on but don't allow your pet to gulp large amounts of water. Next step is to contact your vet. Remembering to cool the car down before taking your pet to the vet.

### 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**

# Mad Cow Disease

Mad cow disease or Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) is a fatal nervous disease of cattle.

It is one of the diverse group of diseases known as the Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (TSEs) that cause degenerative changes in the brain and other nervous tissues. The TSEs of most importance to the Australian livestock industries are BSE in cattle and scrapie in sheep and goats.

These diseases do not occur in Australia.

BSE was first detected in cattle in the United Kingdom (UK) in the mid 1980s. An epidemic developed, peaking in the early 1990s and cases are still occurring today. There have been over 185,000 cases reported and the economic effects have been devastating.

The disease attacks the brain and nervous tissues of cattle, altering behaviour and causing them to stagger, hence the name 'mad cow disease'.

There is strong scientific evidence to suggest that it is linked to eating nervous tissue from BSE-affected cattle. In order to maintain its BSE-free status, Australia has adopted a complete ban on the importation of live cattle from all countries that have reported cases of BSE. Live cattle imports were banned from the UK and Ireland in 1988. Bans on live cattle imports have been imposed on other European countries, Japan, Canada and the United States of America as they have reported cases of BSE where the animals affected were born in that country.

All breeding cattle imported from known BSE-affected countries have been traced and either slaughtered as part of a voluntary buy-back scheme, or placed under lifetime quarantine and surveillance. These animals have not and will not be permitted to enter the human or animal food chains.

Quarantine measures to prevent entry into the country of the BSE agent also include bans on the importation of: UK and European beef products as well as all meat and bone meal products from all countries other than New Zealand.

Victoria and Australia, being BSE-free, have access to many export markets because of this status. If BSE was discovered in Australia, it would immediately close many of these markets, devastating our cattle industries.

Clinical signs progress over weeks to months leading to debility, loss of weight, recumbency and death as there is no treatment or vaccine to cure or prevent BSE.

Cattle affected by BSE may display behavioral changes such as nervousness or aggression, vigorous kicking when milking, sensitivity to bright light, sudden noise or touch. Physical changes may include muscle tremor, abnormal posture, poor coordination, difficulty in rising, decreased milk production, loss of body weight despite continued appetite.

<https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/biosecurity/animal-diseases/cattle-diseases/bovine-spongiform-encephalopathy-mad-cow-disease>



As we say good bye to 2023,  
we would like to wish all our  
valued clients a very happy  
2024.

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