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Rhodes Vet Clinic

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Newsletter

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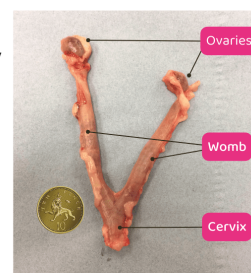
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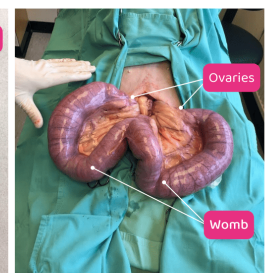
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Why should we desex our pets?

Desexing (speying) your female dog is an important step in protecting her long-term health, particularly in preventing a serious and potentially life-threatening condition called pyometra. Pyometra is a bacterial infection of the uterus that typically occurs in unspeyed females, especially as they age. It can cause symptoms like vomiting, lethargy, loss of appetite, and a foul-smelling discharge that often requires emergency surgery to treat. By speying your dog—removing the uterus and ovaries—you eliminate the risk of pyometra entirely. In addition to preventing this painful condition, desexing also reduces the risk of certain cancers and helps manage the pet population responsibly.



Healthy spayed womb



Pyometra (infected womb)

Desexing (neutering) your male dog offers several important health and behavioral benefits. From a veterinary perspective, one of the main advantages is the prevention of testicular cancer and a reduced risk of prostate issues, such as enlargement or infection. Neutering also lowers the chances of hormone-related conditions like perianal tumours and hernias. Behaviourally, desexed dogs are often less aggressive, less likely to roam in search of females, and show reduced urine marking. This can make them easier to train and live with, especially in multi-pet households. Neutering also helps prevent unwanted litters, reducing the number of dogs in shelters and contributing to responsible pet ownership. In the long run, it can save money by avoiding costly treatments for health or injury issues linked to intact males. Overall, desexing supports a healthier, safer, and more manageable life for your dog.



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



Medication Reminder



Please pre-order your pet's medication and schedule their 6-monthly health check with one of our Vets. Please contact us to arrange both at your earliest convenience.

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**

Pink Eye

Pink eye in cattle, medically known as infectious bovine keratoconjunctivitis (IBK), is a painful and highly contagious eye disease that can significantly impact animal welfare and herd productivity. It is most commonly caused by the bacterium *Moraxella bovis*, though other organisms such as *Mycoplasma bovis*, IBR virus, or environmental irritants can contribute to or worsen the condition. The disease is most prevalent in the warmer months, especially summer, when environmental factors such as dust, ultraviolet (UV) radiation, and fly activity are at their peak. Flies, particularly face flies, play a major role in spreading the bacteria from one animal to another.

The clinical signs of pink eye typically begin with excessive tearing, squinting, and sensitivity to light (photophobia). As the disease progresses, the conjunctiva becomes red and inflamed, and a white or bluish opacity may appear on the surface of the cornea due to corneal oedema. In more advanced cases, corneal ulcers may develop, which can rupture if left untreated, leading to permanent blindness in the affected eye. Affected cattle may also show reduced feed intake and weight loss due to discomfort and impaired vision.

Treatment of pink eye should begin as soon as signs are noticed. Long-acting antibiotics such as oxytetracycline are commonly used and are often effective in stopping the infection if administered early. In severe cases, additional measures like subconjunctival antibiotic injections, anti-inflammatory drugs, or eye patches may be applied to reduce pain and protect the eye while it heals. Keeping infected animals separate from the herd can help limit the spread of the disease.

Prevention is key to managing pink eye on cattle farms. Strategies include effective fly control through the use of pour-ons, or sprays, reducing dust in dry conditions, insecticide ear tags, and providing shade or shelter to lessen UV exposure. Maintaining good pasture and fencing to avoid eye trauma from tall weeds or thorny plants also helps. In some regions, vaccines against *Moraxella bovis* are available and may be beneficial, especially in herds with a history of outbreaks. Ultimately, a combination of environmental management, biosecurity, and timely treatment forms the most effective approach to controlling this condition.

Stage 1



Stage 2



Stage 3



McGrath Foundation Fundraiser

To raise funds for The McGrath Foundation, the Clinic is turning pink for the month of October.

'Guess the amount of dog treats in the jar competition'

A gold coin donation will put you in the running to win the yummy treats for your dog

