

January  
2026

# Rhodes Vet Clinic

Rhodes Veterinary Clinic  
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Veterinarians:  
Dr Michael Rhodes  
Dr Ness Edwards  
Dr Caz Simpson  
Dr Ben Rhodes

Practice Manager:  
Jo McCrickard

Nurses:  
Kirsty Paton  
Amanda Fisk  
Beth Callahan

## 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

## Mycotoxins

**Mycotoxins** are toxic compounds produced by certain types of mold that can grow on a variety of foods. When dogs or cats ingest food contaminated with mold, these toxins can cause serious illness. Common sources of exposure include visibly moldy food such as bread, food found in garbage bins, or compost piles.

One of the most common types of mycotoxins seen in dogs are **tremorgenic (thermogenic) mycotoxins**. As the name suggests, these toxins primarily affect the **central nervous system**. After ingestion, signs can appear quickly and may worsen over time.

Early symptoms often include **vomiting, diarrhoea, restlessness, and agitation**. As the toxin affects the nervous system, more severe signs may develop, such as **muscle tremors, incoordination, stiffness, weakness, and seizures**. These symptoms can look very similar to those caused by other serious conditions, including **snake bite**, which is why it is extremely important to seek veterinary attention immediately.

A veterinarian is trained to distinguish between these conditions and provide the correct treatment. Prompt treatment significantly improves the chances of recovery, so the sooner your pet is seen at a clinic, the better the outcome is likely to be.

**Prevention is far better than cure.** Pet owners should ensure that rubbish bins are secure and cannot be accessed by animals, compost areas are fenced off, and pets are never given moldy food. Even if moldy bread seems harmless, it can pose a serious risk to your dog or cat and should never be fed.

By being aware of the dangers of mycotoxins and taking simple preventative steps, you can help keep your pets safe and healthy.



### 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**

# Brassicas Poisoning

**Brassicas** are forage crops such as turnips, rape, kale, and swedes that are commonly grazed by cattle, particularly during periods of regrowth. While these crops can be highly nutritious, they also contain natural compounds that may cause health issues if consumed in large amounts.

Some brassicas contain substances that can damage the liver. When the liver is affected, it becomes less able to remove phylloerythrin which is a normal breakdown product of chlorophyll formed in the rumen. Under normal conditions, phylloerythrin is filtered out by the liver and excreted from the body. However, when liver function is impaired, phylloerythrin builds up in the bloodstream and accumulates in the skin.

When phylloerythrin in the skin is exposed to sunlight, particularly ultraviolet (UV) rays, it reacts and causes a condition known as **photosensitization** or more commonly known as firefever. This results in sunburn-like damage, which is most noticeable on lightly pigmented or white areas of the skin.

Common signs include agitation, restlessness, swelling, and reddening of the skin, especially around the ears, face, eyes, teats, and udder. Affected cattle may seek shade, avoid sunlight, and show clear signs of discomfort or pain.

If these symptoms occur, cattle should be removed from the brassica crop immediately and provided with safe feed such as hay. Access to shade and clean water is essential. A veterinarian should be contacted for further advice and appropriate treatment to prevent further complications and support recovery.



As we say goodbye to 2025 we would like to wish your all our valued clients  
a very happy new year



2026 IS THE YEAR OF THE HORSE!  
GIDDY UP!!