

**February  
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# Rhodes Vet Clinic

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**Newsletter**

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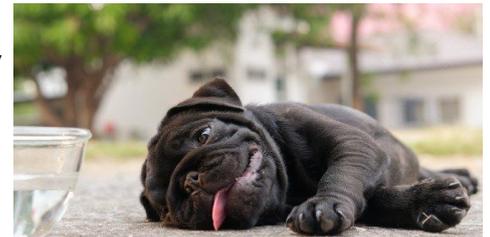
**Veterinarians:**  
Dr Michael Rhodes  
Dr Ness Edwards  
Dr Caz Simpson  
Dr Ben Rhodes

**Practice Manager:**  
Jo McCrickard

**Nurses:**  
Kirsty Paton  
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## Heat Stroke in Pets

As temperatures rise, heat stroke becomes a serious risk for pets. Unlike humans, dogs and cats are not able to cool themselves as effectively. This makes them especially vulnerable to overheating during hot weather. Heat stroke happens when a pet's body temperature becomes dangerously high and they can no longer regulate it. Without prompt attention, this condition can lead to organ damage and even be life-threatening. Recognising the signs of heat stroke early is critical.



Pet owners should look out for heavy or excessive panting, unusual drooling, and changes in gum colour, such as red, pale, or grey gums. Other warning signs include weakness, lethargy, vomiting or diarrhoea and signs of confusion or collapse. In more advanced cases, pets may experience seizures or lose consciousness.

If you notice any of these symptoms, it's essential to seek veterinary care immediately. If you suspect your pet is experiencing heat stroke, take action right away. Move your pet into a shaded or cool indoor area and offer small amounts of cool (not ice-cold) water. You can also help lower their body temperature with cool towels or a fan. However, these steps are only temporary measures, your pet should be transported to the clinic as soon as possible. At the clinic, they may receive treatments such as intravenous fluids, controlled cooling, oxygen therapy, and careful monitoring.

Prevention is key to keeping pets safe during hot weather. Never leave your pet in a parked car. Temperatures inside a vehicle can climb to dangerous levels in minutes. Always provide constant access to fresh water and shade, and avoid walks or strenuous exercise during the hottest parts of the day. Keeping pets in cool, well-ventilated areas with air-conditioning and fan can also make a big difference.

Special care should be taken with flat-faced breeds, elderly animals, overweight pets, and those with health conditions, as they are at higher risk for heat stroke. If you have any questions about heat stroke or how to keep your pet cool this season, please contact our clinic. We're here to help keep your furry family members healthy and safe.

## 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



**What disease was the horse scared of getting?**

Hay Fever

**How did the cowgirl ride into town on Friday, stay 3 nights and ride out on Friday?**

The Horses name was Friday

**What do you call a well balanced horse?**

Stable

**What did the horse say when it fell?**

I've fallen and I cant giddyup!

**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**

## Pregnancy Testing Cattle

**Pregnancy testing in cattle** is a vital herd management practice that plays a key role in improving reproductive efficiency, farm profitability, and overall animal health. Accurate and timely pregnancy diagnosis allows farmers and producers to identify pregnant and non-pregnant cows early in the breeding cycle. This early identification supports better decision-making, such as promptly rebreeding open cows, culling animals with poor reproductive performance, reducing unnecessary feeding and management costs, and improving overall herd fertility rates. It also enables producers to plan ahead for calving seasons, labour requirements, housing, and veterinary care, helping to minimize losses and maximize productivity.

Early pregnancy detection further allows cattle to be grouped according to their stage of gestation, ensuring that animals receive appropriate nutrition, supplementation, and healthcare throughout pregnancy. Proper nutritional management during each stage of gestation supports fetal development, improves cow condition at calving, and enhances future reproductive performance. In addition, identifying reproductive issues early helps prevent prolonged calving intervals and reduces the economic impact of infertility within the herd.

At **Rhodes Veterinary Clinic**, we utilize both **ultrasound scanning and manual rectal palpation** to perform accurate and reliable pregnancy testing in cattle. These two methods provide complementary advantages and, when used together, offer a comprehensive approach to reproductive management. Ultrasound scanning allows for very early pregnancy diagnosis and provides detailed information on fetal age, viability, and development. It also enables the detection of twins, embryonic or fetal loss, and reproductive abnormalities such as uterine infections or ovarian disorders, allowing for timely veterinary intervention.

Manual pregnancy testing through rectal palpation is a well-established and dependable method, particularly effective during later stages of pregnancy. It serves as a valuable confirmation tool, provides additional assurance of pregnancy status. When combined with ultrasound, manual palpation helps ensure accurate diagnosis while maintaining animal safety and welfare.

By using both ultrasound and manual pregnancy testing, **Rhodes Veterinary Clinic** supports efficient herd planning, improved reproductive performance, enhanced animal welfare, and increased productivity for cattle producers. Our professional pregnancy testing services help farmers make informed management decisions that contribute to the long-term success and sustainability of their operations.



**If you require pregnancy testing for your cattle, contact Rhodes Veterinary Clinic to arrange a professional and reliable pregnancy checking service.**

**2026 AFL Footy is back next month....**

**If you would like to join us for our 2026 weekly AFL tipping competition, please let Jo know by Friday, 1st March**

**Tips must be either emailed ([office@rhodesvet.com.au](mailto:office@rhodesvet.com.au)), or delivered to the clinic by 5pm on the day of the first game of each round. Tips will not be accepted by telephone.**

**We will accept several entries from each house, if more than one person wishes to participate... just ensure the tips are named.**

**Cost is only \$25/person for the season.**

