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Rhodes Vet Clinic

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Newsletter

Boosting Bull & Cow Fertility

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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

Bull Fertility:

Bull fertility plays a critical role in herd reproductive success, as one bull can influence the pregnancy rates of many cows.

Ensuring bulls undergo regular breeding soundness evaluations (BSEs) helps assess semen quality, motility and physical condition. Bulls should maintain a good body condition score, have strong feet and legs, and high libido to effectively serve cows during the breeding season.

Nutrition is equally important, with adequate energy, protein, and key minerals like zinc and selenium supporting sperm production. Additionally, managing heat stress and avoiding overworking bulls during peak breeding periods can significantly improve overall fertility and herd performance.

Cow Fertility:

Cow fertility is essential for maintaining consistent calving intervals and overall herd productivity.

Cows need to return to oestrus quickly after calving, which is heavily influenced by proper nutrition and body condition.

Maintaining an optimal body condition score ensures cows have enough energy reserves for reproduction, while deficiencies can delay cycling and reduce conception rates.

Good herd health practices, including vaccination and control of reproductive diseases, are also vital.

Effective management strategies such as controlled breeding seasons, accurate heat detection, and timely pregnancy testing help improve reproductive efficiency, while selecting fertile replacement heifers sets the foundation for long-term herd success.

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**

Understanding Heart Disease In Dogs From Murmur Grades To Disease Stages

Heart disease is a common condition seen in dogs, and early detection can make a significant difference in outcomes.

One of the first signs we can pick up during a check-up is a heart murmur, a sound caused by turbulent blood flow within the heart.

Murmurs are graded on a scale from 1 to 6 based on their loudness. A Grade 1 murmur is very soft and often difficult to hear, while a Grade 2 is quiet but more consistent. Grade 3 is moderately loud and easily detectable, whereas Grade 4 is loud and may be felt as a vibration (thrill) on the chest. Grade 5 murmurs are very loud and heard with minimal contact, and Grade 6, the most severe, can be heard even without a stethoscope touching the chest. While the grade indicates intensity, it does not always directly correlate with the severity of underlying heart disease. Further diagnostics are essential.

To better understand and manage heart disease progression, we use a staging system developed by the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine (ACVIM), which classifies dogs from Stage A to D.

Stage A includes dogs at risk of heart disease but with no current abnormalities, (such as certain predisposed breeds). Stage B is divided into B1 (a murmur is present but no structural changes in the heart) and B2 (structural changes like heart enlargement are detected, often requiring medication). Stage C refers to dogs with current or past signs of heart failure, such as coughing or difficulty breathing, requiring ongoing treatment. Stage D represents advanced heart disease where standard treatments are no longer effective, more intensive specialized care is needed.

Understanding both murmur grading and disease staging allows us to tailor treatment plans and helps pet owners stay informed about their dog's heart health.



RVC AFL TIPPING AFTER ROUND 3

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|-------------|---------------|-------------|
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| 2. Scott 20 | 5. Shannon 19 | |
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