

**June
2026**

Rhodes Vet Clinic

**Volume 16
Issue 6**

Newsletter

Rhodes Veterinary Clinic
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Veterinarians:

Dr Michael Rhodes
Dr Ness Edwards
Dr Caz Simpson
Dr Ben Rhodes

Practice Manager:

Cindy Schoell

Nurses:

Kirsty Paton
Amanda Fisk
Beth Callahan

Change of an Era

July 1 2026 will bring a change of ownership. Dr Michael is handing the reins over to his son, Dr Ben. The Rhodes Family has been providing veterinary services to the Colac Otway districts for over 70 years.

Dr Mike graduated from Melbourne University in 1984 and began his career in an Equine practice on the outskirts of Melbourne before joining a dairy practice in New Zealand.

He returned to the Colac district in 1986, initially working beside his father, the late Dusty Rhodes.

Dr Mike is looking forward to more travel time, although we are sure we will still see him around the Clinic from time to time

Another change on July 1 sees our Practice Manager, Cindy retire after more than 30 years working alongside Dr Mike.

Cindy began with Dr Mike relieving when needed at the Simpson Clinic in the early 1990's. After returning from Queensland in the late 1990's she became the Practice Manager and was based in Colac.

Cindy will be handing the reins over to her daughter, Kirsty Paton who has been a nurse with RVC for over 20 years.

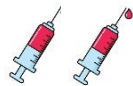
Cindy will celebrate retirement with another cruise!

We thank them both for their long-standing service to Rhodes Veterinary Clinic and wish them both many good years of kicking back and enjoying the slower life!

All the very best to Dr Ben, Kirsty, Dr Ness, Dr Caz, Amanda, Beth & Megan as they take their next steps with this great Clinic.

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 regular medications. Pets must visit us every six months for a health check with one of our Vets.

**We are available 24/7 for
emergencies.**

Office:
Monday to Friday
8am to 6pm
Saturday 9am to 12 noon

**Our emergency number
is 5232 2111**

GET YOUR HIPS AND ELBOWS XRAYED AT RHODES VET CLINIC

Why Hip and Elbow Scoring Matters Before Breeding

When considering breeding a dog, one of the most important responsibilities of any breeder is ensuring the health and wellbeing of future puppies. Hip and elbow scoring are valuable health tests used to assess the condition of a dog's joints and help reduce the risk of inherited joint diseases such as hip and elbow dysplasia.

These conditions can cause pain, lameness, arthritis, and reduced mobility later in life, even in otherwise healthy and active dogs. Because these diseases have a strong genetic component, responsible breeders use scoring results to make informed breeding decisions and to improve the overall health and soundness of their breed.

While no test can guarantee perfect puppies, breeding from dogs with good scores greatly lowers the chance of passing serious joint problems on to the next generation and provides puppy buyers with greater confidence in the care and planning behind a litter.

Hip and elbow scoring is performed by a veterinarian once a dog has reached the required age, usually around 12 months or older depending on breed requirements. The dog is sedated or placed under anaesthetic while specialised X-rays are taken of the hips and elbows to ensure clear and accurate positioning.

These X-rays are then sent to an accredited scoring panel where specialists assess the joints and allocate scores based on joint structure and any signs of arthritis or abnormal development. For hips, each side is scored separately and combined into a total score, with lower numbers generally being more desirable. Elbows are graded from 0 to 3, with 0 indicating normal elbows. By understanding and using these results responsibly, breeders can continue working toward producing healthier dogs with better long-term quality of life for future generations.

SEVERE HIP DYSPLASIA:



EXCELLENT HIPS:



To keep up to date with the clinic latest news please follow our social media pages.



RVC—Rhodes Veterinary Clinic



@rhodes_vet_clinic

RVC Footy Tipping Ladder

After Round 11

- | | | |
|-----------------|----------------|---------------|
| 1. Ray (75) | 2. Scott (74) | 3. Garry (72) |
| 4. Shannon (72) | 5. Cindy (70) | 6. Tracy (70) |
| 7. Josh (69) | 8. Sharyn (69) | |

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