September 2026

Vol.1 No.3

RHODES VET CLINIC



Rhodes Vet Clinic
74 Gellibrand Street
COLAC 3250
P - 03 5232 2111
E - info@rhodesvet.com.au

🐾 OUR TEAM

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

Practice Manager & Nurse:
Kirsty Paton

Nurses:
Amanda Fisk
Beth Callahan

Admin:
Megan Stewart

Clinic Hours:
Monday–Friday: 8 AM–6 PM
Saturday: 9 AM–12 PM
Sunday: Closed

RVC - Rhodes Veterinary Clinic

rhodes_vet_clinic

EMERGENCY

Expert Emergency Care for Large and Small Animals, 24 Hours a Day, 7 Days a Week. Our emergency phone number is 03 5232 2111

Is Your Pet Ready for Spring?

Spring is a great time to give your pet's health a little check-up and make sure they're ready to enjoy the warmer weather.

🦟 Check parasite protection

Warmer weather means increased exposure to fleas, bush ticks and intestinal worms. Make sure your pet's parasite prevention is up to date and suitable for their lifestyle.

🌿 Get outdoors safely

As pets spend more time outside, keep an eye out for grass seeds, snakes and potentially toxic plants. Check your pet's coat, paws and ears after walks or time spent in long grass.

✂️ Spring grooming

Many pets begin shedding their winter coat in spring. Regular brushing can help remove loose fur, prevent matting and give you a chance to spot any unusual lumps, bumps or skin changes.

🐕 Get moving again

If your pet has been less active over winter, gradually increase their exercise rather than jumping straight into long walks. This is especially important for older pets or those carrying a little extra weight.

🩺 Book a spring health check

Spring is also a great time to make sure vaccinations, dental care and preventative health treatments are up to date.

A little preparation now can help your pet enjoy a happy, healthy spring!

Footy Tips

2026 RVC footy tipping competition is over. Thank you, to all those who participated and congratulations to our winners!

Equal 1st place - Shannon & Ray - 154

Equal 3rd place - Garry & Scott - 152

Equal 2nd to last - Marg, Charlie & Beth - 121

WE PROVIDE:

- Surgery & Medicine
- Herd Health Advice
- Pregnancy Testing
- Fertility Testing
- Lameness Consults
- Equine Consults
- Dentistry
- Digital X-ray
- Ultrasound
- Blood Testing
- Nutrition
- Soft Tissue & Orthopaedic Surgery

We care for all creatures great & small!

💊 Medication Reminder

Please pre-order your pets regular medication. Pets must visit one of our vets every 6 months for a health check.

IMPORTANT

Please note that our bank details have changed.

Rhodes Vet Clinic
BSB - 063 510
ACC - 1047 6154

H5N1 Bird Flu
What Pet Owners Need to Know



H5N1, commonly known as bird flu, is a type of influenza virus that primarily affects birds but can also infect some mammals. While infections in pets are uncommon, recent attention around H5N1 highlights the importance of taking sensible precautions —particularly for cats and other animals that may come into contact with infected birds or wildlife.



How can pets be exposed?

Eating infected birds or raw animal products
Catching or interacting with sick or dead wild birds
Contact with contaminated environments or materials
Consuming unpasteurised milk or other potentially contaminated foods

What signs should pet owners watch for?

Signs can vary, but pets infected with influenza viruses may develop:
Fever or lethargy
Reduced appetite
Coughing or difficulty breathing
Sneezing or nasal discharge
Vomiting or diarrhoea
Neurological signs such as tremors, seizures, loss of coordination, or unusual behaviour
Pets that develop sudden or severe illness following possible exposure should be assessed by a veterinarian promptly.

How can you reduce the risk?

There are several simple steps pet owners can take:
Keep cats indoors where possible. This reduces their opportunity to hunt or interact with wild birds.
Do not allow pets to eat sick or dead birds. If you find a dead or visibly sick bird, keep pets away and contact the appropriate local wildlife or animal health authority for advice.
Avoid feeding raw animal products. Choose commercially prepared pet foods from reputable sources and follow appropriate food-handling practices.
Do not feed pets unpasteurised milk. Raw milk can carry infectious organisms and is not recommended as a routine food for pets.
Wash your hands. Good hygiene is important after handling animals, food bowls, litter trays, or potentially contaminated materials.

What should I do if I am concerned?

If your pet has had contact with a sick or dead bird and subsequently becomes unwell, contact your veterinary clinic before arriving. Let the team know about the possible exposure so we can advise you on the safest next steps and make appropriate arrangements if an examination is required.
Most importantly, don't panic. H5N1 infection in pets remains uncommon, but being aware of the potential risks allows pet owners to take practical precautions.

For further information and answers to frequently asked questions regarding bird flu (avian influenza), please visit the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) website: Bird flu (avian influenza) – DAFF.

Thank you for trusting us with your animals. We look forward to continuing to care for you and your pets.