



# The Vet Centre

WAIPU | RUAWAI | MANGAWHAI | MAUNGATUROTO | RUAKĀKĀ



April/May  
2026

## Hello everyone,

In our April/May newsletter, we're sharing an important reminder about the dangers Easter treats can pose to our pets, the tale of Tito's grass-blade adventure, fun activities from around the practice, our upcoming holiday hours, current promotions, and team member updates.

*We hope you enjoy the read!*

**The team at The Vet Centre.**



**FREE**  
Treat Tin

when you purchase  
any Yours Droolly  
200g-1kg Treats\*

Offer includes 200g-1kg YD Treats.  
Available in April 2026 while stocks last of the Yours Droolly Treat Tin.  
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## Easter safety for your pets

Easter is a wonderful time filled with egg hunts, family gatherings, and autumn gardening – but it can also be one of the busiest times of year for veterinary clinics. Many of the treats and activities we enjoy over the holiday can pose serious risks to our pets, sometimes leading to an unexpected trip to the vet.

As both veterinarians and pet owners, we know how tempting it can be to share treats with our furry friends. However, some common Easter foods and household items can be dangerous – even life-threatening.

### Watch out for toxic treats

Chocolate is one of the most common causes of pet poisoning at Easter. It contains caffeine and theobromine, both of which are toxic to dogs and cats. Ingestion can lead to vomiting, diarrhoea, seizures, and in severe cases, even death.

Hot cross buns are another hidden danger. These seasonal favourites often contain raisins or sultanas, which can cause significant, sometimes irreversible, kidney damage in dogs.

Additionally, be mindful of products containing xylitol, an artificial sweetener found in many candies and baked goods.



← Xylitol can cause a rapid drop in blood sugar levels, leading to weakness, seizures, and other serious complications.

**Be cautious with table scraps**

While it might feel harmless to share Easter meal leftovers, fatty foods like ham, chicken, or rich table scraps can be problematic. These foods are often high in fat and calories, contributing to weight gain and increasing the risk of conditions such as obesity, diabetes, arthritis, and heart disease.

In some cases, consuming fatty foods can trigger pancreatitis, a painful and potentially serious condition where the pancreas becomes inflamed.

Cooked bones should also be avoided, as they can splinter and cause choking, broken teeth, internal injuries, or intestinal blockages.

**Garden and household hazards**

Easter is a popular time for gardening, but it's important to be mindful of what your pets might encounter outdoors.

Slug and rat baits are particularly dangerous, as pets are often attracted to them. Even small amounts can be highly toxic, so always use these products carefully and store them securely out of reach.

Certain plants can also pose a risk. Lilies, for example, are extremely toxic to cats – ingesting even a small amount can lead to irreversible kidney failure.

**Keep your pets safe this Easter**

The best way to protect your pets is through awareness and prevention:

- Keep all Easter treats well out of reach
- Avoid feeding table scraps or fatty foods
- Store garden chemicals safely
- Be mindful of toxic plants in your home and garden

If you suspect your pet has eaten something harmful or if you're unsure about the safety of a food or substance, don't wait – contact your veterinary clinic immediately.

**Our on-duty vet teams are available 24 hours a day during the Easter period for any urgent concerns.**

**We wish you and your pets a safe and happy Easter!**



**TEMPORARY HOURS**

We are closed on the following dates:

- Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April: **Closed**
- Monday 6<sup>th</sup> April: **Closed**
- Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April: **Closed**
- Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April: **Closed**

**AFTER HOURS EMERGENCIES**  
Please call our clinic number

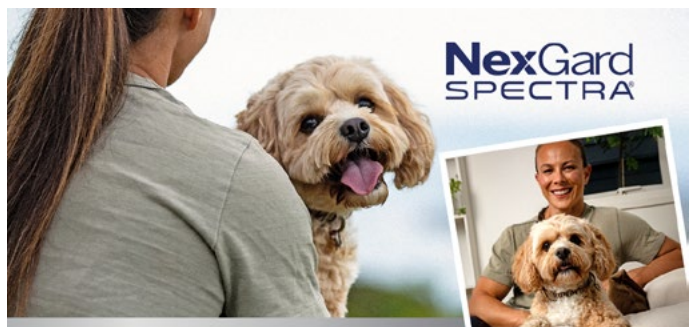
Happy Easter!

Saturday normal hours for Mangawhai and Waipu. On-call vet available 24/7 through the public holidays/weekend. **CLOSED ANZAC SATURDAY**

**20% OFF**  
**Royal Canin Satiety Dry Food Diets**



\*Discount applies to Royal Canin Satiety dry food skus only. Offer ends 31st May 2026. While stocks last.



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**WIN COLIN'S**  
NEXT LEVEL STAYCATION BUNDLE  
**WORTH \$10,000\***



TSCs apply. See product labels for full claim details and directions for use. ACVM Inv. A011181 and A01182.



## Welcome Zedina

Vet Nurse **Zedina**, a Swiss/Kiwi, has joined the Mangawhai team as a new graduate. She is passionate about improving the lives of animals and looks forward to meeting and caring for the pets of our Mangawhai clients.



## Farewell Jorgha

For us at *The Vet Centre*, this Easter is a little bittersweet. While many of us are looking forward to a well-earned break, we're also saying goodbye to one of our nursing superstars, Jorgha McIntyre.



Jorgha has been a central part of our Maungaturoto and Ruakākā teams over the past two years – and many of you will have seen her lending a hand across all of our clinics. Her genuine care, compassion, and calm approach with animals (both big and small!) have made her a favourite among our team and clients alike. She will be hugely missed by all of us, as well as the many pets and farm animals who've been lucky enough to be in her care.

Originally from Australia, Jorgha is heading home with her husband, Liam, to pursue a new career opportunity. While we're excited for what lies ahead for her, we secretly hope this isn't the end of her journey in the veterinary world – because she truly is exceptional at what she does.

Jorgha, thank you for everything you've given to our team, our clients, and the communities we're proud to be part of. We wish you and Liam all the very best for your next adventure – you'll always have a place here at *The Vet Centre*.

## SPCA Snip'n Chip 2026

We are taking part in the SPCA Snip'n Chip campaign, which started on 25th March and runs until 30th June 2026.

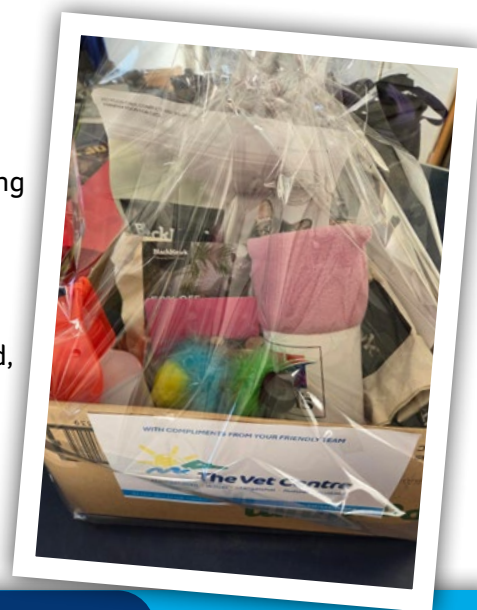
This campaign offers low-cost, accessible desexing and microchipping for cat owners who need it the most. We welcome all new and old clients to contact us to take part in this great campaign. Spaces are limited.

For more information, and to check if you are eligible, visit: <https://snipnchip.sPCA.nz/>



## Top of the Rock

*The Vet Centre* is a proud sponsor of Top of the Rock Kaiwaka, an annual community fundraising event featuring 5km/10km walk, run, and mountain bike challenges through scenic bush, farmland, and up the steep Baldrock Mountain. Congratulations to all the winners.





# Tito's Grass Blade Adventure

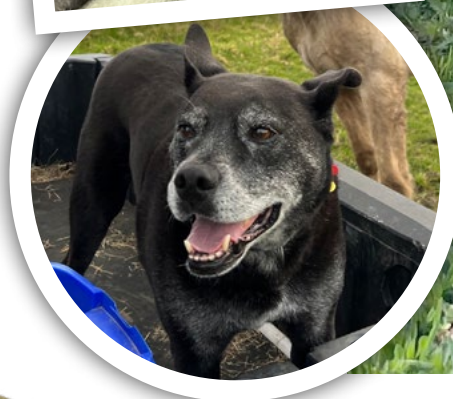
There's a first for everything in the veterinary world – and Tito certainly gave us one to remember!

Tito was brought in after his owners noticed persistent sneezing fits and difficulty swallowing. Something clearly wasn't right. Once he was safely sedated, we took a closer look – and what we discovered surprised us all.

Carefully lodged above his soft palate and extending into his nasal cavity was a 26 cm long grass blade! While grass seed and blade foreign bodies are more commonly seen in cats, finding one in a dog – especially of this size – is extremely unusual.

Removing it was no small task. It took a coordinated effort from three nurses and one veterinarian to keep Tito comfortable, hold his mouth open, manage the equipment, and gently extract the grass blade in one piece. It was a true team effort, and a very satisfying one at that.

We're delighted to report that Tito has made a full recovery and, according to his owners, is back to his happy, playful self.



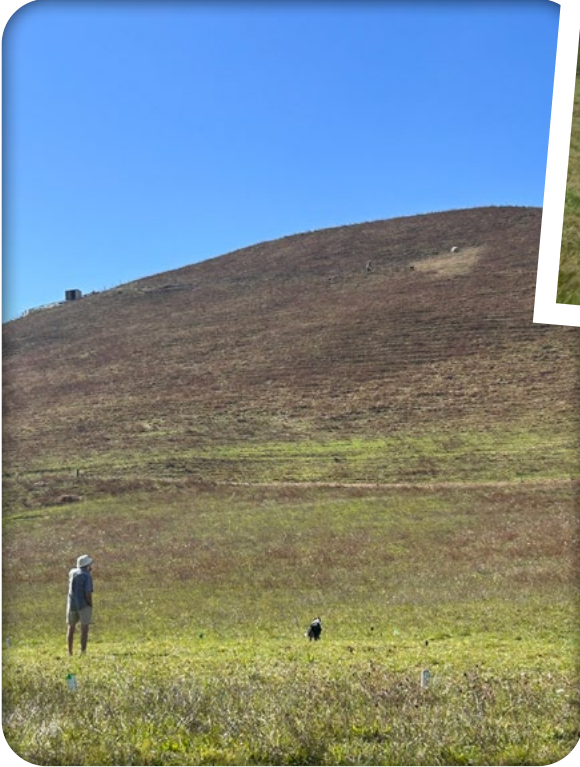
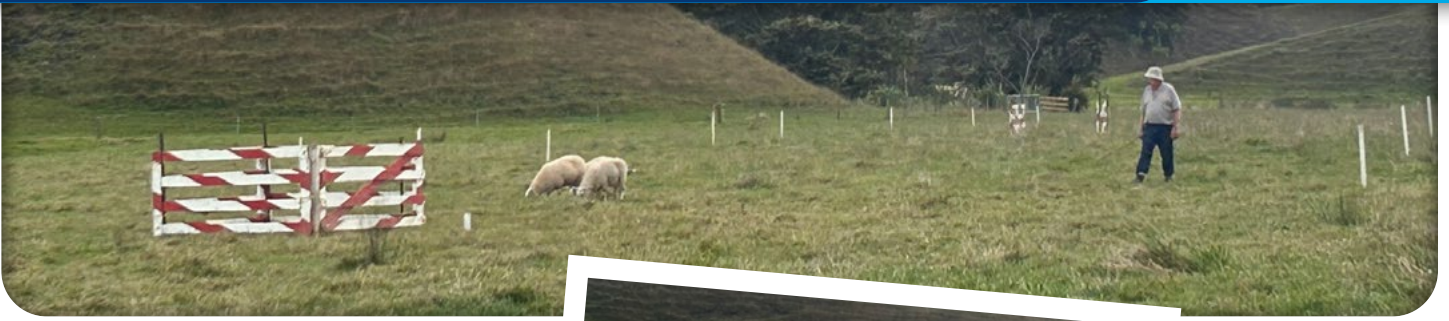
# FREE WORMING TABLET\*

## WITH EVERY BRAVECTO CHEW FOR DOGS

### WHILE STOCKS LAST!



\*This is a promotion run by the clinic displaying this promotion. Refer to staff for full terms and conditions, including promotion period. ACVM No: A011019 Bravecto chew.



# Otamatea Sheep Dog Trials

The Vet Centre sponsored the local Otamatea Sheep Dog Trial Club's annual trial on 21st and 22nd March, providing support and a wonderful gift basket as a prize for the club. One of the oldest clubs in Northland, running for over 100 years, it's located in Marohemo on the White Rock Hills property, owned by Quentin and Tracey Robinson.

The two-day trial is made up of four events: two for heading (or eye) dogs, the short head and yard, and the long head. Two for huntaway dogs, the zigzag and straight hunts. The fog delayed the start of the trial on both days; this didn't hamper things too much, with over 50 runs in the heading events and 30 in the huntaways, with competitors travelling from Waikato to the Far North.

Some of *The Vet Centre* team came to check out the event with their families, gaining a better understanding of the sport, which many of our clients are involved in around the region. Vet Rosie managed to find herself a job on the huntaway course, joining the team as liberator. Her task was to ensure the sheep started to walk up the hill as the huntaway dogs began their run. Well done, Rosie. We hear you're welcome back any time.

If you're interested in sheep dog trials around the region, *The Vet Centre* is supporting another local club, Molesworth (Kaiwaka), on 17th & 18th April for their annual trial.



## Waipu Clinic

53 The Centre  
Waipu  
P 09 432 0693

### Opening Hours

Mon-Fri: 8.00am-5.00pm  
Saturdays:  
9.00am-12.30pm

## Ruawai Clinic

23 Jellicoe Road  
Ruawai  
P 09 439 2506

### Opening Hours

Mon-Fri: 8.00am - 5.00pm  
Saturdays: CLOSED

## Mangawhai Clinic

36 Moir St  
Mangawhai  
P 09 431 4535

### Opening Hours

Mon-Fri: 8.00am - 5.00pm  
Saturdays:  
9.00am - 12:30pm

## Maungaturoto Clinic

184 Hurndall St  
Maungaturoto  
P 09 431 8318

### Opening Hours

Mon-Fri: 8.00am - 5.00pm  
Saturdays: CLOSED

## Ruakākā Clinic

385 Marsden Point Road  
Ruakākā  
P 09 433 4916

### Opening Hours

Mon-Fri: 8.00am - 5.00pm  
Saturdays: CLOSED