



The Vet Centre

WAIPU | RUAWAI | MANGAWHAI | MAUNGATUROTO | RUAKĀKĀ



August/September
2026

Hello everyone and welcome to our August/ September Pet Newsletter

We brush up on some dental education and remind you that we have some great dental specials, including 20% off dental procedures, diets and other products. We also answer some questions about bird flu and remind you to check that your pet is chipped and registered.

Enjoy the read!
**The team at
The Vet Centre
Northland.**

Dentistry Update at The Vet Centre



Dental disease can have a significant impact on our pet's comfort and wellbeing and can often go unnoticed (as our pets are very good at masking pain) until obvious signs occur. Dental disease is painful and can be very debilitating and will affect nearly all of our pets at some stage in their life, highlighting the need for prevention and early detection of any problems.

Regular dental checkups are an important tool to assess and maintain good oral health. Annual checks are the recommended minimum and can be done as part of an annual health check appointment or a free dental check can be performed by one of our trained nurses.

A visual inspection is only the first step in a dental exam and not all problems can be seen as a large portion of the teeth sit below the level of the gums. In cats and dogs, the tooth roots make up roughly two thirds of the height of the tooth.

Dental x-rays allow us to assess the tissues below the gum line allowing us to make more informed

decisions when deciding on treatment plans and tooth removal and are an important part of the dental assessment process.

At *The Vet Centre* we have recently upgraded our dental kit to include the ability to perform dental x-rays in all of our clinics. This allows us to provide a very high level of care to all of our small animal patients in all of our locations. In addition to the purchase of new dental x-ray machines, we have also upgraded our dental x-ray readers and digital viewing software.

The companion animal clinical team also has some upcoming training to improve our dentistry knowledge and techniques from a registered veterinary dental specialist in late August. ➔

**If you have
any concerns, please
contact your local
Vet Centre Northland clinic
to book a dental checkup
for your pet. We are offering
20% off dentals
for both August and
September this year so
it's a great time to book
in and get those teeth
sorted.**



Dr Michelle Stodart
BVSc, Vet





← CASE STUDY

A 7-month-old female Cavoodle was presented for routine desexing. When we examined her mouth we noticed that both upper deciduous (baby) canine teeth were present alongside the permanent canine teeth. Cavoodles are a breed which commonly retain their deciduous canines. As she was 7 months old and the permanent canine teeth were already well erupted, removal was recommended to allow the permanent teeth to settle in the correct place and prevent crowding.



Image shows retained canine tooth on right, with permanent canine tooth on left similar to that seen in our case study patient.

Dental x-rays were taken of both retained teeth prior to extraction which showed both teeth had full roots remaining. A surgical removal was performed by incising through the gum tissue to create a gum flap over the root of the tooth and burring away bone. This allows for easier removal and helps prevent damage of the adjacent tooth roots. Retained deciduous teeth are very thin walled and are easily broken so careful extraction technique is needed.

Dental x-rays ideally should be taken prior to any tooth extraction to understand what is happening beneath the gum line and allow for the most informed treatment decisions and extraction planning. In the case of deciduous extractions, they allow us to visualise how much root resorption has occurred and which extraction technique is most appropriate.



Deciduous canine tooth with entire root remaining (orange arrow) next to permanent canine tooth.



Deciduous canine tooth with little root structure remaining (orange arrow).



Extracted upper deciduous canine teeth.



Both deciduous canine teeth were removed using the surgical extraction technique and the gum flaps were sutured together to cover the extraction site as in the picture below.



Post deciduous canine tooth extraction and gum suturing.

**20% OFF
Dental Procedures***



The Vet Centre

*Offer applies to work done under anaesthetic. Offer ends 31st August 2026. Spaces are limited. T&Cs apply, chat with our team to find out more.



A STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE TO Brushing Your Pet's Teeth



Regular brushing is the gold standard for preventing dental disease, bad breath, and costly vet treatments. If your pet isn't used to it, don't worry! With a bit of patience, most dogs and cats can learn to enjoy it.

1. What You Need

- **A suitable brush:** A pet-specific toothbrush, a soft baby toothbrush, or a finger brush.
- **Pet toothpaste:** Flavoured like chicken, beef, or malt to make it tasty for them.
- **Treats:** High-value rewards for positive reinforcement.

CRITICAL NOTE:

Never use human toothpaste or baking soda. Human products contain foaming agents and ingredients like Xylitol, which are highly toxic to pets if swallowed.

2. Get Touch-Tolerant

Before introducing a brush, get your pet used to having their mouth handled.

- Lightly rub their muzzle and lips with your finger.
- Gently lift their lips and rub your finger along their gums.
- Practice this for a few seconds daily over a week before moving to the next step.

3. The Taste Test

Introduce the supplies without any pressure.

- Put a small dab of pet toothpaste on your finger and let them lick it off.
- Let them sniff and inspect the toothbrush so they aren't frightened by the new object.



4. Choose the Right Moment

Timing is everything when building a new routine.

- Pick a time when you and your pet are both calm and relaxed (e.g., after a long walk or dinner).
- Get down on their physical level instead of hovering over them.
- Keep sessions very short, positive, and stress-free.

5. Brush the Surfaces

Start with the front teeth and slowly work your way backward as your confidence grows.



20% OFF

Hills t/d Dental Diets*



*Offer ends 30th September 2026. While stocks last.

protect their smile

20% OFF DENTAL RANGE*

everyday CARE

The Vet Centre

Virbac

*T&Cs apply, see in clinic for details



CLINIC ADVICE:

If you notice red gums, bleeding, heavy brown tartar, or severe bad breath, stop brushing and call us. Brushing over existing dental disease can be painful, and they may need a professional dental scale and polish first.

- Gently lift the lip and brush the surfaces of the teeth in small, gentle circles.
- Focus heavily on the gum line where daily plaque builds up.
- Work up to about 30 seconds of brushing per side.

6. Build the Habit

Aim to brush your pet's teeth every 1–2 days. Plaque turns into rock-hard tartar within 48 hours, so consistency is key!

7. End on a High Note

Always reward your pet with their favourite treat, a game, or a cuddle immediately after brushing. This ensures they associate the toothbrush with a positive memory.

Quick Tips for Success

- **Be patient:** It can take weeks to build up to a full 60-second brush.
- **Safety first:** Stop immediately if your pet shows any signs of stress, distress, or aggression.
- **Make it fun:** Lots of enthusiastic praise goes a long way!

Can't Brush?

Try These Alternative Options!

If your pet completely refuses a toothbrush, you can still protect their smile. Ask our clinic team about these easy alternatives:

- **Dental Diets:** Specially shaped kibble that acts like a toothbrush, physically scrubbing the tooth surface as your pet chews.
- **Water Additives & Gels:** Tasteless liquids added to their water bowl that help break down plaque biofilm and freshen breath.
- **Dental Chews:** Vet-approved chews designed to reduce plaque buildup through mechanical chewing action.



Puppies

Tiny noses, tiny paws, and a whole lot of cuteness!

This gorgeous litter made their grand entrance via caesarean section, and we couldn't resist sharing this precious puppy pile. Mum is recovering well, and her babies are thriving. ❤️

Who can count how many sleepy faces are tucked under that blanket?

July - August 2026
Available through your Masterpet Territory Manager, promotional eDM or this sell sheet only.

Trouble & Trix

20% off

Trouble & Trix Litter 7L*

PLUS

FREE Black Hawk Wet Pouch

Promotion period: 1 Jul - 14 Aug 2026 while stocks of the 7L and GMP last. © Trouble & Trix is a Registered Trade Mark. © Masterpet Corporation Ltd.

20% OFF*

ProDen TROY

PlaqueOff®

✓ 100% natural.
✓ Helps reduce:

- plaque
- tartar
- bad breath

VOHC
Accepted
HELPS CONTROL
PLAQUE
HELPS CONTROL
TARTAR

ROYAL CANIN

20% OFF

Royal Canin Dental Diets*



*Offer ends 30th September 2026. While stocks last.



Is Your Pet's 'Safety Net' Up to Date?

Why Spring is the Perfect Time to Check the Chip!



As the winter chill lifts and the days get longer, our pets are just as eager as we are to spend more time outdoors.

With extra time outside – and open doors and windows at home – comes an increased risk of pets wandering off or getting spooked. That's why August and September are our official **"Check the Chip"** months!

Microchips vs. Collars: The Ultimate Backup Plan

Collars and ID tags are fantastic, but they can easily snap, snag, or fall off during an outdoor adventure. A microchip is a permanent, painless "safety net" about the size of a grain of rice. It sits safely under your pet's skin and lasts a lifetime.

If your pet is ever lost and brought to a vet clinic or rescue shelter, a quick scan reveals their unique 15-digit microchip number.

The Missing Link: Registration

Here is the most important part: a microchip only works if your contact details are current!

A microchip does not contain GPS tracking, and it doesn't automatically know your phone number. It simply links to a secure national database called the **New Zealand Companion Animal Register (NZCAR)**. If you have moved house, changed your mobile number, or adopted your pet from someone else, that database might still have old information.

How You Can "Check the Chip" This Month

We want to make sure every Kiwi pet can find their way home. Here is how you can participate:

1. Pop in for a free scan:

Next time you are passing the clinic, bring your pet in! One of our veterinary nurses will happily scan your pet to confirm the chip is working and provide the 15-digit number.

2. Verify your details:

Visit animalregister.co.nz to log in and check your contact details. If you don't know your login details, our team can help you look them up.

3. Not chipped yet?

If your pet isn't microchipped, book a quick appointment with one of our veterinary nurses. It takes just a few seconds and gives you invaluable peace of mind.



Let's make sure our furry family members stay safe this spring. Drop by or give us a call today to check the chip!



\$20 OFF

your second pack of BRAVECTO Plus



A \$20.00 discount (including GST) on the retail price will be provided by the participating veterinary clinic or retailer at time of purchasing two identical packs of BRAVECTO Plus. This offer may not be combined with any other offer and is available for a limited time.

ACVIM Feb AD01546



\$20 OFF

your second pack of BRAVECTO Chew



A \$20.00 discount (including GST) on the retail price will be provided by the participating veterinary clinic or retailer at time of purchasing two identical packs of BRAVECTO Chew. This offer may not be combined with any other offer and is available for a limited time.

ACVIM Feb AD0153



BIRD FLU UPDATE



We are continuing to see sick owned birds.

If you have a pet bird or backyard chicken that is unwell, please call us before bringing them to the clinic.

This allows us to discuss your bird's symptoms and ensure appropriate biosecurity measures are in place before your arrival.

What if I find a sick or dead wild bird?

Please do not pick up or transport sick or dead wild birds to our clinics. Please call the **MPI response team 0800 80 99 66** for advice.

Signs that may be seen with avian influenza

Birds affected by avian influenza may show signs such as:

- Tremors or other neurological signs
- Twisted neck
- Inability to stand or fly
- Difficulty breathing
- Sudden weakness or collapse.

Please note that these signs can occur with several illnesses and do not necessarily mean a bird has avian influenza.



Is my cat or dog at risk?

The good news is that the risk to pets is still considered low.

The best way to protect your pet is to:

- Prevent them from catching or eating wild birds
 - Keep them away from sick or dead birds
 - Avoid feeding raw poultry or game bird products.
 - Cats are more likely to become infected than dogs, but cases remain uncommon.
- Most pets that have become sick overseas have had close contact with infected birds, such as catching, playing with, or eating wild birds, or being fed raw poultry products.
- Dogs appear to be at lower risk, although those that spend a lot of time around wild birds or waterways may have a greater chance of exposure.

If your pet has been in contact with a sick or dead bird and becomes unwell, contact us for advice.

Need a later visit time?

We've got you covered

Waipu:

Tuesdays until 7.00pm

Mangawhai:

Thursdays until 7.00pm



Treat your pet bestie

Sign up for a PetCare or AcciPet policy in August and be in to WIN 1 of 25 \$200 Prezzy® cards*

Use promo code **BESTIE**

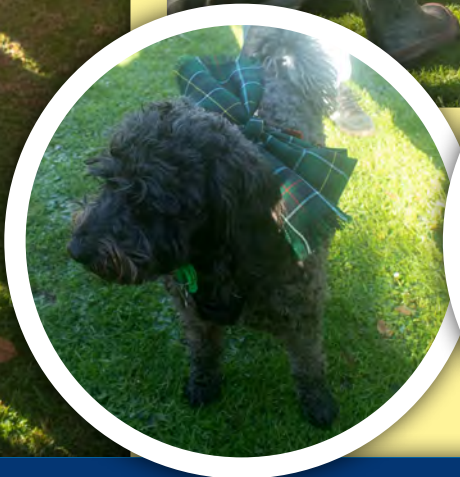


*T's, C's & exclusions apply. Offer ends 31 August 2026.



THE TARTAN PARADE







STAFF NEWS

Welcome

Melanie Palmer, a lifestyle and dairy veterinarian with a passion for helping farmers, lifestyle block owners, and the animals they care about, has joined our team, based in Waipu. She loves the variety that comes with mixed practice, whether she's working with cattle, sheep, goats, pigs or alpacas.

When Melanie is not out on farm calls, she's usually spending time with her own crew. She shares her life with six Italian Greyhounds and six Nigerian Dwarf dairy goats. She likes to think six is the magic number – enough to keep life interesting without being completely outnumbered (most days!).

For her, veterinary medicine is about more than treating sick animals. It's about building relationships, sharing practical advice, and teaching. She has been working in the Kaipara area for a few years now, and looks forward to a bit of a change and joining the team at *The Vet Centre*.

Welcome back!

A warm welcome back to **Celine Lye**, who has joined us as a full-time mixed veterinarian in the Mangawhai clinic, and Andy Rissman, returning as a locum veterinarian.



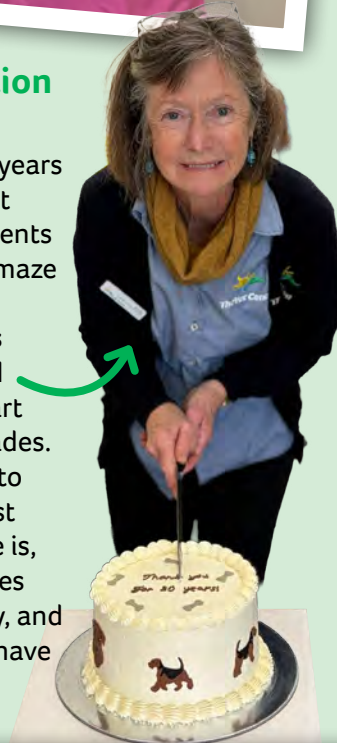
Farewell

We recently farewelled **Dr Rosie** and **Dr Din** – two vets who have made an impact on both their colleagues and clients in so many ways. There is so much we can say about these two, but we can only be grateful to have had such awesome veterinarians working with our team, and we welcome them back anytime they wish to return to NZ!



Milestone Celebration

It was also an absolute privilege to celebrate 20 years of **Susi Pringle** working at *The Vet Centre*. Achievements like this never cease to amaze us, and we're so grateful for Susi and what she has brought to every role and every clinic she's been part of over the past two decades. If you've had the chance to meet Susi, you'll know just how genuinely caring she is, which embodies the values we strive to live every day, and we're incredibly lucky to have her as part of our team.



Waipu Clinic

53 The Centre
Waipu
P 09 432 0693

Opening Hours

Mon-Fri: 8.00am-5.00pm
Tuesdays until 7.00pm
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
Thursdays until 7.00pm
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