



The Vet Centre

WAIPU | RUAWAI | MANGAWHAI | MAUNGATUROTO | RUAKĀKĀ



October/November
2026

The last few months of the year can be challenging months for many pets. With fireworks season approaching and everyday situations like vet visits causing stress for some animals, we've put together practical advice to help keep your pets feeling calm and supported. In this edition, you'll also learn about a year-long solution for flea and tick protection, meet Pipi, whose flea troubles are now firmly behind her, and see how our team continues to invest in the latest dental care knowledge. We're also taking the opportunity to celebrate Vet Nurse & Vet Tech Awareness Week and thank the incredible nurses and technicians whose skill, compassion and dedication help make great patient care possible every day. *Enjoy the read.*

The team at The Vet Centre, Northland

Creating a Calmer Veterinary Experience for Our Patients

We know visiting a vet clinic can be stressful for our fur friends, so we're always looking for ways to make their experience as comfortable, calm, and positive as possible.

At our clinics, we use *Feliway* for cats and *Adaptil* for dogs to help create a more reassuring environment. These pheromone-based products provide comforting signals through scent, which can help support animals during a potentially stressful situation.

We have plug-in diffusers throughout our clinics.

For dogs, we offer a bandana to go around their neck, sprayed with *Adaptil* spray.

For cats, we can provide a towel over their cage sprayed with *Feliway*.

We also follow up on this with a chill protocol, if the animal needs it, to help make their visit more comfortable. So please ask if you think your cat or dog may benefit from this.

We focus on gentle handling – less is best – along with treats, lick mats, patience, and reducing unnecessary stress throughout the visit.

From the moment they walk through our doors, our goal is simple:

- Happy dogs
- Comfortable cats
- Gentle handling
- A calmer clinic environment

Because vet care isn't just about treating illness – it's also about caring for how our patients feel.

Every little step we take to reduce fear and stress can help make a vet visit a better experience for pets, their families and our team.



Amy Fryer
Veterinary Nurse
Ruakaka





Creating a Calmer Veterinary Experience for Our Patients

← Keeping Dogs Comfortable and Safe

We also use Baskerville muzzles, which are designed to be comfortable for dogs while still allowing them to pant, which is very important. Panting is one way dogs cool themselves down. The muzzle also lets them lick their lips, open their mouths to take treats, and drink.

Using a muzzle helps keep dogs safe when they may be painful, unsure, or uncomfortable around different people. It is not a punishment – it is simply a way to help keep everyone safe while allowing us to understand how a dog is feeling and what they are communicating.



Anxiety in Cats and Dogs

With firework season fast approaching, this can be a significant source of anxiety for our pets. Fortunately, several effective strategies and medical therapies can help them feel safe, calm, and secure during these stressful events.

How Anxiety Manifests: Dogs vs. Cats

Signs of Anxiety in Dogs:

- Panting heavily when not hot
- Pacing, trembling, or shaking
- Whining, barking, or howling
- Destructive behaviour
- Attention-seeking
- Trying to hide in small spaces
- Trying to escape

Signs of Anxiety in Cats:

- Hiding (often under beds, in closets, or up high)
- Refusing to eat or drink
- Urinating or defecating outside the litter box
- Excessive grooming
- Dilated pupils and a flattened posture, remaining completely frozen



Dr Amy Butterworth
Veterinarian
Mangawhai

Things we can do to help our pets at home:

In advance:

- Desensitisation and positive reinforcement: You can desensitise your pet to the sound of fireworks by playing a recording at a low volume to start and gradually increasing the volume. Reward your pet with treats or positive reinforcement so they start to associate the sounds with a good experience.

On the day:

- Avoid leaving your pets home alone if possible
- Create a safe environment: Set up a den-like area away from windows. For dogs, this might be a crate covered with a heavy blanket (if they are crate-trained). For cats, make sure they have access to a dark, cozy hiding spot, like a closet or under a bed.



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Help Calm Your Cat During Summer Stress

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FELIWAY

*Pricing dependent on clinic



Anxiety in Cats and Dogs

- Close all windows, draw the curtains/close the blinds
- **Use White Noise:** Turn on the TV, play music, or use a white noise machine at a moderate volume to help drown out the noise.
- **Keep Them Indoors:** Ensure cats are locked inside well before dusk. Take dogs out for their bathroom breaks early in the evening before the noise begins. Keep them on a lead in case they get spooked and attempt to run away.
- Make sure your pet is wearing a form of identification (collar with tag), especially if they are not microchipped. Ensure all microchip details are up to date on the NZ Companion Animal Register.
- **Thundershirts:** Some pets respond well to snug-fitting pressure garments; thundershirts can be a good option for dogs.
- **Calming pheromones:** *Feliway* for cats or *Adaptil* for dogs. These mimic the natural pheromones released by mother cats/dogs to make their offspring feel safe.
- **Stay Calm:** Your pets look to you for cues. Speak in a calm, soothing voice. You cannot reinforce fear by comforting your pet; if they seek comfort, provide it gently.



Veterinary Medication Options

When environmental changes are not enough to prevent severe anxiety, veterinary medications are a safe and effective tool.

There are different types of medication options available to suit different needs:

- **Short-Term, Fast-Acting Options:** These are designed to be used specifically for the night of the event to provide targeted relief during the fireworks.
- **Long-Term Daily Options:** These may be more appropriate for pets who suffer from ongoing, persistent anxiety or daily stressors in addition to noise phobias.

Because every pet is different, we recommend a tailored approach. Please contact the clinic in advance to discuss which medication option best suits your pet's specific needs and to develop a customised anxiety management plan.



Welcome to **Britta** (pictured with her dog, Koda), who is joining the Mangawhai Nursing team full-time. She has been working at the Ruawai clinic.

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Stop Summer Fleas (& Ticks) in Their Tracks

Warm, humid summer weather is perfect for fleas. The adults you see on a pet are only a small part of the problem – eggs, larvae, and pupae can hide in carpets, bedding, furniture, and shaded outdoor areas. Fleas can cause itching and skin irritation, and sensitive dogs may develop flea allergy dermatitis. Once an infestation is established, it can take weeks to bring under control.

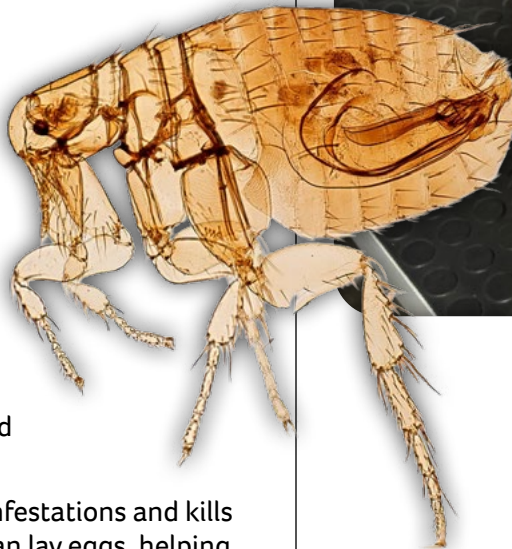
Fortunately, modern flea control products are effective, long-lasting, and, for the large majority of dogs and cats, well tolerated.

Bravecto Quantum™ makes year-round protection simple. As a single vet-administered injection, it provides dogs from six months of age with continuous flea and tick protection for 12 months. There are no monthly tablets or spot-ons to remember, helping prevent gaps in protection and giving owners peace of mind through summer and beyond.

Bravecto Quantum treats existing infestations and kills newly emerged fleas before they can lay eggs, helping reduce flea populations in areas your dog visits. It is also registered as part of a treatment strategy for flea allergy dermatitis.

Ask us if *Bravecto Quantum* is suitable for your dog.

(Available only under veterinary authorisation.
ACVM No: A011993 BRAVECTO QUANTUM)



Dr Andy David
Veterinarian
Mangawhai



This is Pipi. Her owners did everything possible to deal with fleas, but nothing worked, so she got *Bravecto Quantum* a year ago. Just came back for her second shot – owners couldn't believe how well it worked.



**YEAR-LONG FLEA & TICK PROTECTION
FOR DOGS, WITH JUST ONE DOSE**

BRAVECTO QUANTUM requires vet authorisation, ACVM: A011993.



Happy Vet Nurse and Vet Tech Awareness Week!

This week, we're celebrating the incredible Vet Nurses and Vet Technicians who make such a difference every day across *The Vet Centre*.

Whether they're caring for patients in our clinics and hospitals, assisting in surgery, comforting anxious pets and owners, supporting our veterinarians, or working on farm alongside our production animal teams, their knowledge, skill and compassion are at the heart of what we do.

From monitoring patients and running diagnostics to helping improve animal health, welfare and productivity on farm, Vet Nurses and Vet Technicians play a vital role in delivering exceptional care to the animals and clients who rely on us.

Thank you for the countless ways you support our teams, care for our patients, and help make a positive difference every day.

To all our wonderful Vet Nurses and Vet Technicians, thank you. We appreciate you not just this week, but every day.





Dentistry workshop at The Vet Centre

The Vet Centre is committed to providing high standards of care to its patients, consistent with modern guidelines and updated best practice. This is particularly relevant in small animal dentistry, which has rapidly evolved in recent years in the use of imaging, pain relief administration, and tooth extraction techniques.

To keep both vets and nurses up to date, we invited Dr Craig Hunger and Lisa Ryecroft from Manukau Veterinary Referral Centre to present a dental wet lab on the last Sunday in August. Craig is a dental specialist and educator, while Lisa is his head nurse at the MVRC.

With a near-complete turnout of Vet Centre vets and nurses, the day got off to a good start with a review of X-ray techniques, getting the best images, X-ray interpretation, dental nerve blocks and tooth extraction techniques.

After lunch, we got down to the nitty-gritty: taking X-rays and extracting teeth*. The Vet Centre has recently upgraded its dental



Dr Andy David
Veterinarian
Mangawhai

X-ray hardware and software, and this was a valuable opportunity to understand how to get the most from it.

We also practised nerve blocks and teeth extractions, helping our vets hone their skills. Better extraction technique reduces time, trauma, and the potential for complications, so this was a highly valued part of the day. Amazing what you can learn when you have a specialist looking over your shoulder!

All in all, a very productive and enjoyable day that has left all of us more confident, knowledgeable, and able to deliver great care in managing a disease that is both common and has significant negative impacts on the quality of life of our pets.

* Donated cadavers were used in the wet lab – these were handled respectfully and in strict accordance with NZ Vet Association, Vet Council and local authority regulations.

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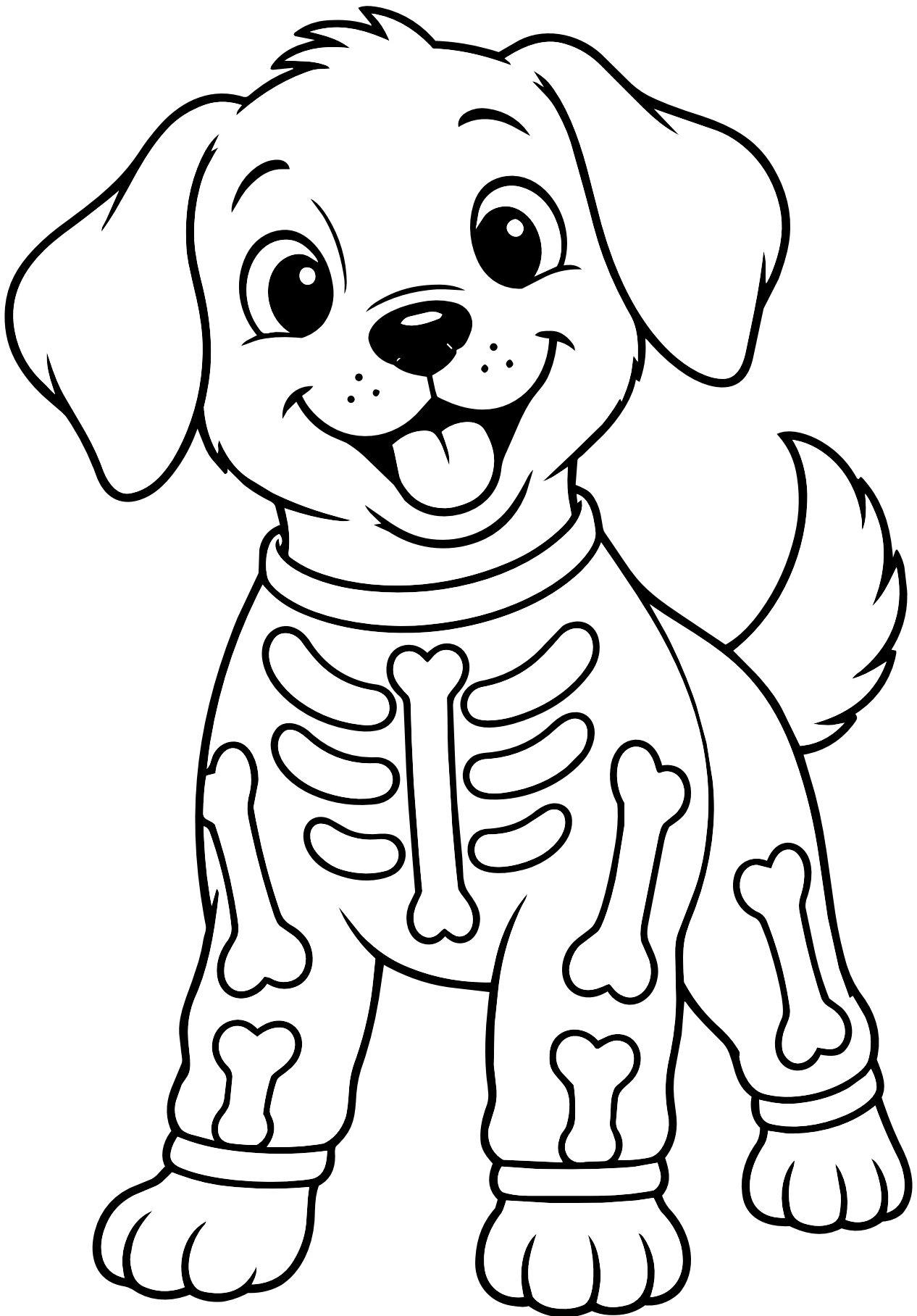
*Promotion starts 1 October 2026 and ends 31 December 2026. Receive \$20 off the price at a participating vet clinic, when you buy a Seresto™ flea and tick collar during the Promotion Period. The Product Purchase Discount is only valid for this Promotion and is not exchangeable, negotiable or redeemable for other products. The Product Purchase Discount is also not available with any other offer. Terms and conditions apply, see www.mypetandI.elanco.com/nz/promotions/seresto20off for the full terms and conditions.

*70% less CO₂ compared to previous Seresto tin packaging. Kiwa GmbH Lifecycle Assessment Comparison, 2023. This relates only to packaging impact and does not cover any other aspect of the product lifecycle (e.g. manufacturing environmental impacts).

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Halloween Colouring Fun





Halloween Colouring Fun





Pumpkin Peanut Butter Biscuit Halloween Dog Treats

INGREDIENTS

- 250g pureed pumpkin (unsweetened)
- 60g peanut butter (unsalted, no xylitol)
- 310g whole wheat flour
- 1 egg

INSTRUCTIONS

- Preheat your oven to 175°C.
- In a bowl, mix the pureed pumpkin, peanut butter, and egg until well combined.

- Gradually add the whole wheat flour and knead the dough until it's firm.
- Roll out the dough to about 0.5cm thickness and use Halloween-themed cookie cutters to create shapes.
- Place the treats on a baking sheet lined with baking paper and bake for 25-30 minutes, or until they turn golden brown.
- Let them cool before serving to your furry friend.





Cute pics



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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