



# The Vet Centre

WAIPU | RUAWAI | MANGAWHAI | MAUNGATUROTO | RUAKĀKĀ

June/July  
2026

**T**he new farming calendar has begun. We have had some stunning days after cold, foggy mornings. Some things to remember to do on farm include managing biosecurity risks when moving stock, people and machinery. Give your yards, gate and headbail some much-needed TLC. Update your biosecurity plan, keep NAIT records up to date, and check movement testing (TB, BVD, Johne's disease). The Vet Centre is proud to support the ongoing efforts of our farming community. If you need any information or advice, then please reach out to your local clinic, favourite vet or vet tech.

We would like to acknowledge our farmers who were part of the LIC 2026 Breeders Day awards. These amazing farmers help contribute to our ever-growing dairy industry year after year.

Spring farms have been busy drying off their herds after a long season of milking. Managing their heifers back to farm, teatsealing the heifers along with drenching and moving their young stock to grazing.

Autumn farms have been focusing on mating plans, milking, and mastitis management, as well as calf rearing, disbudding, and vaccinations. It has been very much head down for these farmers.

Beef and sheep units have been blood testing for trace elements required for good pre-mating management and discussing and booking in early reproduction plans with our vets.

The team has been busy helping on farm with drying off, and teatsealing, body condition scoring (BCS) mobs at dry off, autumn disbudding of calves and metrichecking and curing.



## Field Surgery and Diagnostics on big cats

Our team recently had the opportunity to perform diagnostic radiographs and surgically remove an eye mass from one of the lions at the local lion park, where we routinely assist with the animals' veterinary care.

The case was a great example of the diverse and collaborative work our team undertakes. Sarah coordinated the immobilisation,



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- **Wild horses don't get their teeth done...** By Dr Chloe Trill, Equine Vet.
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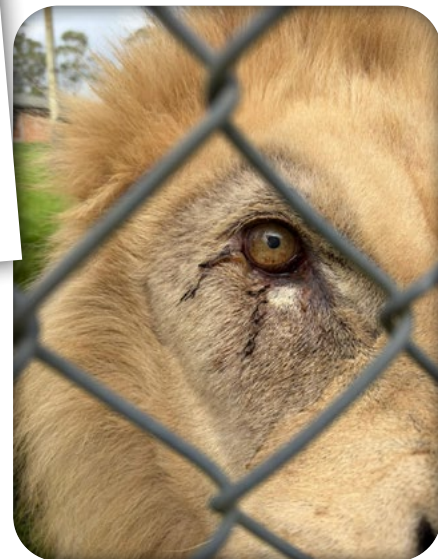


← darting, and procedural logistics required to safely prepare the lion for surgery, while our super-brave veterinary nurse, Jessie, carefully managed and monitored the anaesthetic throughout the procedure. Once the patient was stable, Emily performed the delicate surgery to remove the mass, followed by an H-plasty advancement flap to close the surgical site successfully.

Cases like this highlight the broad skill base within our team and the variety of work we are fortunate to be involved in. From



immobilisation and diagnostic imaging to anaesthesia and advanced surgical techniques, it was a rewarding example of teamwork and of the unique opportunities that come with large animal veterinary practice.



## Planning a vet visit? Don't let it turn into a rodeo!

We all know animals can be entertaining when they have a visitor, let alone a vet or vet tech in their paddock. A little prep goes a long way in making sure hooves, tails and people stay intact.

### Here are a few tips to help things go smoothly;

- Ensure solid rails and gates in the yards – if it wobbles, your animal will know it before you do, and they will test it, probably mid-vet exam. Some cattle can almost high jump a 6m rail.
- Clear access to walkways, catwalks, and headbails. Remove trip hazards, cut long grass, and check that your gates and headbail are working.
- Think, do you have enough people to help with this job?
- Calm animals are checked over faster. Move slowly, stay calm and quiet. Stock are smarter than you think; shouting only makes them think that you are losing the plot. Keep dogs away when not needed.
- Water and feed – happy tummies are calmer animals. Bribery works wonders. For farmers and stock.

**Let's all do  
our best to keep  
everyone happy.**

**Calm animals  
+ calm farmer  
+ calm vet  
= happiness!**



**What did  
the evil sheep  
want to do??**

**ANSWER  
ON PAGE 6**



# Mineral Testing Packages

Prices exclude farm visit, mileage, and any additional testing.

The table below outlines the packages along with trace minerals tested and price.

	Testing	Price (including sampling) incl. GST
<b>Transition cow mineral package (10x blood sample)</b>	Calcium, magnesium, phosphorus, beta-hydroxybutyrate (energy balance)	<b>\$690</b>
<b>Pre-mating mineral package (10x blood sample)</b>	Copper, selenium, magnesium, beta-hydroxybutyrate (energy balance)	<b>\$690</b>
<b>Blood trace mineral package (10x blood sample)</b>	Copper, selenium, B12	<b>\$610</b>
<b>Liver biopsy trace mineral package (6x liver samples)</b>	Copper, selenium, B12	<b>\$1070</b>
<b>Cull cow liver trace mineral package</b>	Copper, selenium, B12	<b>\$850</b>



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[www.rural-support.org.nz](http://www.rural-support.org.nz)

HELP & SUPPORT

**We're here to strengthen connection in New Zealand's rural communities.**



## STAFF NEWS

### Staff coming and going

We will farewell two amazing staff members soon.

#### Dr Rosie Gillis

will leave us to head back home to the UK in July. The Waipu and wider Vet Centre farmers and staff will miss her can-do attitude and positive experience on farm and in clinic.



The other staff member to

move south is

#### Emily Stevens.

A wonderful vet nurse / casual vet tech based out of Mangawhai. Emily's smiley and calm presence will be missed out on farm and in clinic.



#### We welcome:

#### Sharron Revell

has joined the Maungaturoto clinic team. Sharron lives with her husband Scott on their small, off-grid lifestyle block with their two dogs, Jake and Ruby, a few chooks and a wee herd of cows. They moved to Maungaturoto about 5 years ago from the Waikato, looking for somewhere a bit warmer in winter and a better quality of life. They love the lifestyle here.



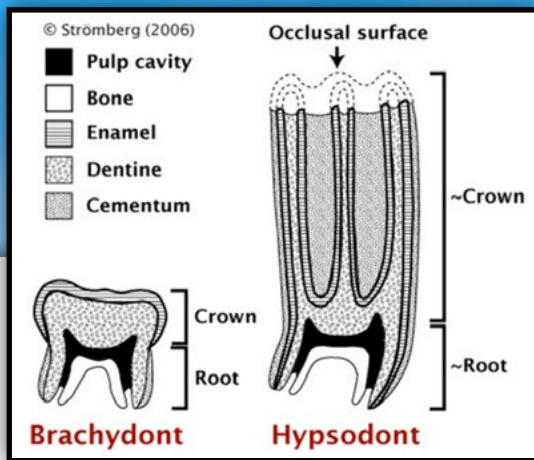
### ACCOMMODATION WANTED

House that can accommodate 6 dogs and 6 goats.

Please get in touch with [sarah.briggs@thevetcentre.net.nz](mailto:sarah.briggs@thevetcentre.net.nz) if you have anything available.



# Wild horses don't get their teeth done...



It's one of the most common comments we hear when discussing equine dentistry.

While it's true that wild horses don't receive annual dental examinations, they also don't live the same lives as our domesticated horses. Wild horses spend up to 18 hours a day grazing coarse forage, which helps wear their teeth down to some extent. Even then, dental disease still occurs in wild horses – they simply don't have a vet to call when it becomes uncomfortable or a problem!

Unlike those of humans, dogs, or cats (which are brachydonts), a horse's teeth continuously erupt (grow) throughout much of its life (hypsodont). Equine teeth are specifically designed to withstand constant grinding of fibrous forage. They contain infoldings of hard enamel throughout the tooth, interspersed with softer dentine and cementum. This creates a rough grinding surface as the tooth wears. In contrast, humans, dogs, and cats have enamel only on the outer surface of their teeth, making their teeth better suited for biting and tearing rather than prolonged grinding.

Our horses are often living longer, eating softer feeds, and are expected to perform under saddle.

As a result, abnormal wear patterns can develop over time.

The tricky part? Many horses show no obvious signs of dental disease until the problem is quite advanced.

### Some of the issues we commonly find during routine dental examinations include:

- Sharp enamel points causing cheek and tongue ulcers
- Retained caps in young horses
- Wave mouth and abnormal wear patterns
- Periodontal (gum) disease
- Tooth root infections
- Fractured teeth

### Left untreated, dental disease can contribute to:

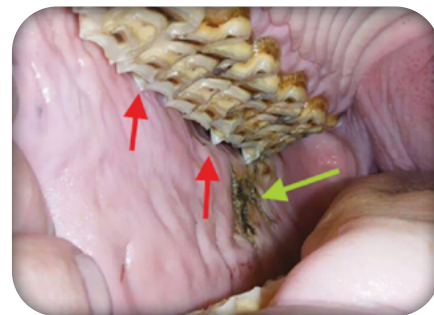
- Weight loss
- Quidding (dropping partially chewed feed)
- Choke
- Colic
- Bad breath
- Head shaking
- Nasal discharge from tooth root infections
- Resistance under saddle or poor performance

As a general rule, most adult horses benefit from an annual dental examination, while younger and older horses often require checks every 6–12 months.

Regular dental examinations aren't just about "floating teeth" –

they're an opportunity to identify problems early, improve comfort, and help your horse get the most out of their feed and work.

**If your horse hasn't had a dental examination in the last 12 months, now might be the perfect time to book one.**



**Sharp enamel points (red arrows) are a common finding in almost all routine dentals. Left untreated, these can cause ulceration (green arrow) of the lining of the cheek or tongue.**



**Diastemas (white arrow) are a very painful (and common) condition in which food is forcefully packed into the gum between two teeth. The food material begins to rot, causing significant infection and inflammation of the gum.**



### FARMER FEEDBACK TOP TIP

**IconF injectable drench.**  
If you use the needles recommended with the product (3/4-inch), it makes the job a million times easier.



## SHOUT OUT

Some big news for our Mangawhai and Waipu clinics. We now have an open late evening. Our new in-clinic hours will be:

### WAIPU CLINIC

8-7pm on Tuesdays

### MANGAWHAI CLINIC

8-7pm on Thursdays

If you need medications or last-minute animal health products on these evenings, you are more than welcome to come to collect them while the clinic is open.

**Please note:** our large animal team will still finish work at 5pm as usual. *The Vet Centre* is still available 24/7 for emergencies; however, large animal calls after 5pm will require the after-hours vet to attend.



## FE season what an interesting season

The facial eczema season has really dragged on this year. With samples still being tested and resulting in alert levels into early May! This shows there is still ongoing exposure and risk to your stock. It is important to note that both the amount of FE spores ingested and the duration of exposure can contribute to liver damage.

Sourced from Beef + Lamb New Zealand.



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## Lifestyle Info

**We have a well-designed lifestyle package for our small-block farmers. If you are interested or have any questions, please email [lifestyle@thevetcentre.net.nz](mailto:lifestyle@thevetcentre.net.nz)**

**Goats** – As the ground gets wet, your goats' hooves can get soft. Now is a good time to take a look at their hooves and trim or treat any issues early. Providing a dry, hard surface for your goat to stand and spend time on will help keep their hooves healthy.

**Sheep** – Please be vigilant for flystrike. The days are still warm, and with a lot of moisture about, we are still seeing and hearing about active flystrike on sheep. Checking and noticing any changes in behaviour early is your best option in keeping on top of flystrike.

**Prelambing vaccination** – Give your ewe and lambs their best chance of fighting off disease by giving the ewe a 5-in-1 vaccination four weeks before lambing.

*The Vet Centre* is your place to pick up treatment and vaccines, along with any advice and information.

**Cattle** – Your stock will benefit from a good drench at this time of year. Using a Boss or Turbo pour on is easy to apply.

If you are unsure whether to give a drench, please bring in a poo sample (just a tablespoon is enough) for our team to check for worm eggs.

**Alpaca** – Ideally, try to keep pasture levels above 3cm in height, as this will not only usually provide adequate nutrition but will minimise parasite ingestion. Supplementing with other feeds during times of pasture shortage

is recommended. But remember to introduce these supplements slowly over 10-14 days, and that alpacas need long-stemmed plant fibre at all times.



**ANSWER**  
*He wanted to wool the world.*

## FREE! Vaccination and docking for Pet Day

**We are proud to announce our annual Pet Day service!**

Pet Day is happening soon. Get your pet lamb, calf or kid vaccinated and docked.

**PHONE YOUR LOCAL CLINIC!**



### 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

Monday-Friday:  
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

Monday-Friday:  
8.00am - 5.00pm  
Saturdays: CLOSED

### Ruakākā Clinic

385 Marsden Point Road  
Ruakākā  
P 09 433 4916

#### Opening Hours

Monday-Friday:  
8.00am - 5.00pm  
Saturdays: CLOSED