



The Vet Centre

WAIPU | RUAWAI | MANGAWHAI | MAUNGATUROTO | RUAKĀKĀ



August/September
2025



It's dental month!

Did you know that dental disease is the most common condition in pets, affecting over 85% of cats and dogs by the age of 3? Left untreated, it can cause pain, tooth loss, and even impact vital organs like the heart and kidneys.

Book a dental procedure in August and take advantage of our 20% discount. There are also some great discounts on dental diets and products. Check them out below.

Enjoy the read!

The team at **The Vet Centre** Northland.

Why Dental Health is so Important



Dr Michelle Stodart
BVSc, Vet

Oral health is as vitally important to our pets' wellbeing as it is to ours. The statistics indicate that between 70% and 80% of pets over the age of 3 have some form of dental disease.

Dental disease is painful and can be very debilitating for our pets. It can be easily overlooked, as our pets are very good at masking pain. Often, it's not until the problem becomes obvious, such as reluctance to eat or a swollen face, that it is noticed.

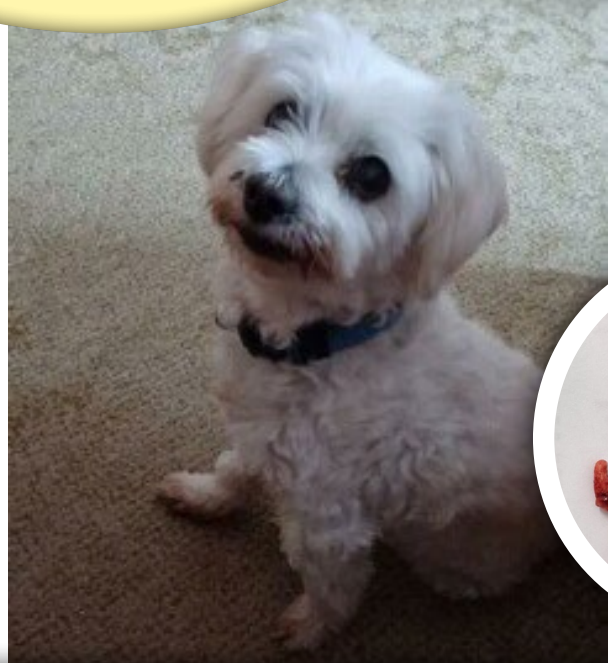
Many owners comment after a dental procedure on how much happier their pets are and often see a significant improvement in their quality of life. This highlights how debilitating chronic oral pain can be.

Dental health can also impact the health of other organs in the body. In dental disease, bacteria can be circulated in the bloodstream and lodge in other organs, causing infection and disease.

What is dental disease?

Dental disease, also known as periodontal disease, occurs when plaque builds up on the teeth. Plaque is a clear sticky substance composed of food particles, saliva and bacteria. It adheres to the teeth after eating. If it isn't removed after 24 hours, it will harden and calcify into tartar. Tartar, also known as calculus, can only be removed safely with a dental treatment (i.e., scaling and polishing) under a general anaesthetic.

Tartar allows bacteria to flourish, leading to gingivitis (early-stage gum disease), characterised by inflammation, pain, and bleeding of the gums. If untreated, this then leads to periodontal disease. This is an advanced stage of gum disease, and the gums become more painful, inflamed and recede. Eventually, bone is lost, and teeth can become loose and fall out.





- **Daily Tooth Brushing** – The gold standard to prevent plaque build-up and dental disease. Beginning this early in life can be the key to establishing it as a normal routine part of everyday life. Using pet-specific toothpaste and gradually and gently introducing tooth brushing helps older pets adjust to the idea.

(See *How to brush your pet's teeth* on Page 3)

Signs of Dental Disease

Dental disease often occurs gradually, and signs can be difficult to notice in the early stages. Pets usually don't stop eating until dental disease is very severe or painful, so this is not a good indication of dental health.

Below are some of the signs to be on the lookout for.

- Red gums +/- bleeding gums
- Plaque and tartar build up on teeth
- Halitosis (smelly breath)
- Gum recession
- Drooling
- Loose teeth
- Facial swelling
- Reluctance to chew or eat
- Pawing at mouth
- Changes in behaviour/activity



Please
get in touch
with your local
Vet Centre
Northland clinic
to book a free
dental check-up
for your pet.

Prevention of Dental Disease

Prevention is always better than a cure. Regular clinic visits to allow dental checks are an important aspect of maintaining good oral health. Problems can start from an early age, such as retained deciduous teeth. Scheduled dental maintenance and early interventions are much less invasive and painful for our pets. Regular cleaning is important, with daily tooth brushing the gold standard.

Below are the steps that can be taken to reduce the occurrence of dental disease in our pets.

- **Regular Dental Checks** – To assess for tartar accumulation, gingivitis, periodontal disease and broken teeth. Advice on any required dental treatments and development of at-home maintenance care plans.

ROYAL CANIN[®]

20% OFF
Royal Canin Dental Diets*



*Offer ends 31st August 2025. While stocks last.



How to brush your pet's teeth

1. What you need

- Pet or baby toothbrush
- Pet toothpaste
- Treats!

***NOTE:** DO NOT use human toothpaste or baking soda to brush your pet's teeth. These are made with ingredients that can cause stomach upsets if swallowed

2. Allow your pet to become comfortable with you touching their mouth.

- Give their muzzle a light rub with your finger
- Gently touch/rub their teeth and gums
- Do this over a few days before you begin brushing their teeth

3. Give them a taste of the toothpaste and show them the toothbrush

- This will encourage your pet not to be afraid of this new activity

4. Choose the right moment

- When you are both relaxed
- Give you and our pet plenty of time
- Make it an enjoyable experience
- Get down to their level

5. Start with the easiest to reach teeth until you are both more confident.

- Brush your pet's teeth in small circles
- Brush all the inside and outside surfaces as well as across the entire gum line to remove daily plaque build-up
- Work up to at least 30 seconds of brushing for each side

***NOTE:** If you notice any problems as you brush, like red or bleeding gums or bad breath, call your clinic. The earlier the problems are found, the easier it may be to treat them.

6. Aim to brush your pet's teeth every 1-2 days

7. After each session, reward your pet.

- This will associate tooth brushing with a positive memory

HELPFUL HINTS



- Be patient
- Give lots of praise
- Remember to always put a small amount of toothpaste on your finger or toothbrush
 - Reward your pet with treats at the end of each session
 - Stop immediately if there is any sign of aggression
 - Human toothpaste is for humans, not pets
- Remember, always make it fun!

20% OFF
Dental Procedures*



*Offer applies to work done under anaesthetic. Offer ends 31st August. Spaces are limited so call to book.



Dr Chloe Traill
BVSc
Mixed Animal Vet
Mangawhai



Russell and his best friend Penny



Russell vs. the Slug Slam:

A Tale of Survival, Slobber and Snuggles



Meet Russell – a 4-month-old Labrador puppy with a zest for life, a bottomless stomach, and absolutely no sense of danger. Just a few weeks ago, Russell took it upon himself to do a little “gardening” of his own... and by gardening, we mean helping himself to what turned out to be a truly shocking amount of slug bait.

Russell’s curious adventure took a serious turn when he began seizing and foaming at the mouth. He was rushed to the clinic just one hour after ingestion, in full-blown toxic crisis mode. The culprit? A large, possibly record-breaking quantity of Slug Slam (a common slug bait containing a very dangerous chemical called metaldehyde).

And when we say a large amount... we mean large. Russell had managed to eat over 500 grams of the stuff. That’s about as much as you’d use to protect an entire veggie garden.

The Emergency Marathon

Russell arrived at the clinic, seizing, disoriented, and with a dangerously high heart rate. Our team immediately jumped into action – administering anti-seizure medications, placing an IV catheter, running laboratory blood work, and starting a series of fluid boluses to support his heart and blood pressure. He was intubated and put under general anaesthetic so we could begin a very long gastric lavage (aka stomach pumping).

What followed was nearly two hours of flushing his stomach and removing wave after wave of blue slug bait. Just when we thought the last bit had come out... more arrived. It felt never-ending.



20% OFF*

ProDen **TROY**
PlaqueOff®

- ✓ 100% natural.
- ✓ Helps reduce:
 - plaque
 - tartar
 - bad breath





← Once the stomach was cleared, we gave activated charcoal, carafate and omeprazole to protect his gut and mop up any remaining toxins. Russell was placed on a glucose intravenous drip to support his growing body and counteract some of the effects of metaldehyde on his nervous system and electrolytes.

A Sleepover by the Fire

Because Russell was still at risk of seizures and tremors, he had a very special sleepover – at Dr Chloe and Dr Thomas’s house. He came home for overnight monitoring, hooked up to his IV line, and snoozed by the fire while we kept a close eye on his breathing, muscle activity and blood sugar.

He even started wagging his tail, sitting up, and managed to eat a bit of yoghurt and kibble before curling up again. By the next morning, he was excitedly exploring the features of his stay-cation and ready to head home to be with his family.

A Very Happy Ending

A few weeks later, Russell came bouncing back into the clinic for his puppy vaccinations, as if nothing had ever happened. He greeted everyone with enthusiasm, gave a little happy hop at the counter, and made it very clear he had no memory of the two hours we spent pumping blue goo from his stomach. And you bet he ate all the treats from the reception team!

Keep Your Pets Safe From Slugs This Winter

Slug bait toxicity is sadly common in winter and early spring. Clinical signs can present as early as 15 minutes to 3 hours from ingestion and include muscle tremors, lethargy, and seizures.

There are pet-safe options to keep slugs away from your plants:

- Use iron-phosphate-based slug pellets (these are much safer for pets and wildlife)
- Try beer traps or copper rings around your garden beds
- Keep bait in containers that pets absolutely can’t access
- Avoid using any bait at all if your pets roam freely in the garden.



Russell was lucky. Not every pet gets to walk away from a slug bait poisoning with a wagging tail. Please be vigilant and trust your instincts if you notice your dog or cat is behaving strangely. And if in doubt, get in touch with us for safe pest control advice.

15% OFF Hills t/d Dental Diets*



PLUS
go in the draw to win a **FREE** bag of Hills t/d

*Buy a bag of Hills t/d and go in the draw to win a bag. We have 5x 1.5kg feline and 5x 2.25kg canine t/d bags to giveaway. Competition and offer ends 31st August 2025. While stocks last.

SMILE TO WIN!



20% OFF

VeggieDent® FR3SH™ and C.E.T.® Toothpastes*

#HealthyPetSmiles

*Excludes C.E.T.® Home Dental Kit and C.E.T.® Fingerbrush with Toothpaste

Virbac



The Vet Centre

**STARTING
SOON!**

PUPPY PRESCHOOL

For puppies 8-16 weeks of age

(Minimum 1st vaccination required)



Give your puppy a great start in life and help them grow and develop into healthy and happy canine companions

WHAT WE COVER

- Socialisation with other dogs
- Owner education on health and nutrition
- Positive rewards based training

WHERE

- 36 Moir Street, Mangawhai

WHEN

- Tuesday nights from 6pm starting from 19th of August

WHAT IT COSTS

- \$120 for four one hour sessions

Please contact your local clinic to book. Spaces are limited so don't delay.

All breeds and levels of owner experience welcome.



New In-House Coagulation Testing Now Available

We're thrilled to announce the arrival of the IDEXX Coag Dx™ Analyser to our Waipu and Maungaturoto clinics. This new machine allows us to quickly detect and diagnose coagulation disorders, which are conditions that affect normal blood clotting.

One of the most common bleeding disorders we see is rat-bait toxicity. Ingestion of these rodenticides can lead to internal bleeding and life-threatening complications if they're not diagnosed and treated promptly. Until now, diagnosing these conditions often meant sending samples to an external lab and waiting days for results. But with our new in-house analyser, we can receive this vital information in just minutes.

What does this mean for your pet?

- **Faster Diagnosis:** rapid results mean earlier treatment and improved outcomes.
- **Improved Accuracy:** high-quality in-house testing ensures reliable data to guide clinical decisions.
- **Broader Capabilities:** as well as detecting rat-bait poisoning, we can also assess for inherited clotting disorders, liver disease complications, and ongoing monitoring for pets undergoing certain treatments.

When might your pet need coagulation testing?

- Suspected ingestion of rat bait
- Unexplained bruising or bleeding
- Prolonged bleeding after injury or surgery
- Pre-surgical screening in at-risk animals.

The safety and well-being of your furry family members is our top priority. The addition of the IDEXX Coag Dx Analyser is another step in our ongoing commitment to provide the highest standard of veterinary care.

If you suspect your pet may have been exposed to rat bait or have other concerns about coagulation disorders, please call us immediately. Early detection saves lives.



Cute pets from the past month



WIN A FULL YEAR'S PROTECTION



**NexGard
SPECTRA**

**TAKE A BREAK FROM FLEAS
TICKS, MITES, AND WORMS – INCLUDING WHIPWORM**

T&C's apply. White packs only. See product labels for full claim details. ACDM No. AD11194

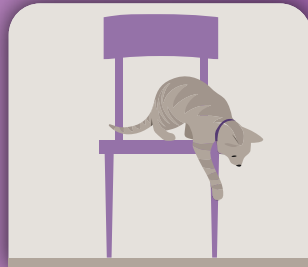


September is Animal Pain Awareness Month

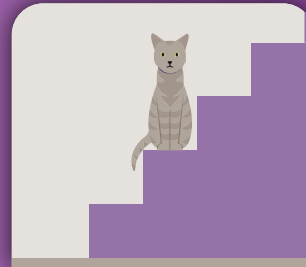
KNOW WHEN YOUR PET IS IN PAIN



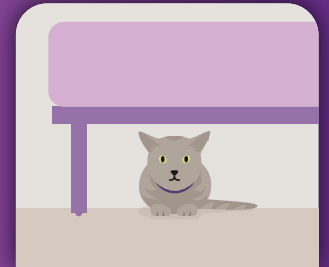
Sleeping more and stiff after waking



Reduced jumping ability



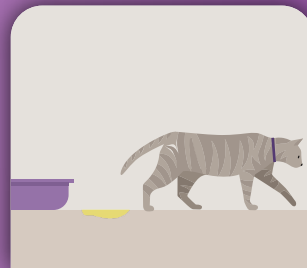
Difficulty with stairs



Change of temperament



Grooming less



Inappropriate toileting



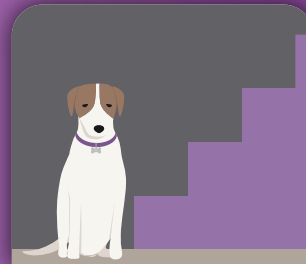
Loss of appetite



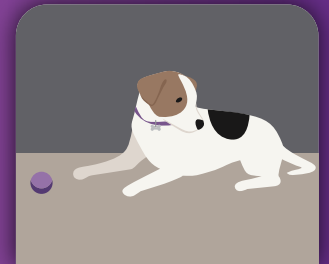
Disrupted sleep and difficulty rising



Refuses walks or lags behind



Difficulty with stairs



Change of temperament



Cries out or licks joints



Lack of balance when toileting



Loss of appetite

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The Tartan Parade

Waipu had its annual Tartan Pet Parade in June. The morning included following the pipe band down the main street, adorned in our tartan and leading our furry friends.

We all descended to the lawn outside our clinic for prizegiving.

Photos include Ellie the horse, who walks in the parade every year. The overall winner was Grace, a gorgeous labradoodle.

A big thank you to our fantastic Waipu crew, all pitching in to make the day a success.



GRACE
Our winner



FERN
Best Dressed Large Dog



Waipu staff



ELLIE
Best Dressed Horse

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