



The Vet Centre



February/March
2025

WAIPU | RUAWAI | MANGAWHAI | MAUNGATUROTO | RUAKĀKĀ

Hello everyone and happy belated New Year

We have seen a few cases of parvovirus in our clinics recently. Dogs sick with parvovirus typically require intensive treatment, which can cost thousands of dollars. Any dog that has not been vaccinated is at risk, so please make sure your dogs are vaccinated. Read the Parvo FAQs later in this newsletter for more information.

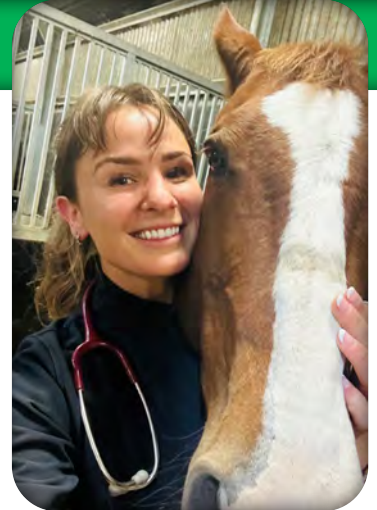
Enjoy the read and & take care out there on the roads and at the beaches.

Regards
The Vet Centre team

STAFF NEWS

NEW MIXED VETERINARIAN **Chloe Rayner**

Chloe grew up in West Auckland and graduated from Auckland University with a master's in biomedical science – neuroscience in 2018. Thereafter, she studied veterinary science at Massey University and graduated with distinction in 2023. After graduating, she travelled to Australia for a 13-month equine internship at West Vets Equine Hospital in Queensland in 2024. This year, Chloe returned to New Zealand to join our Vet Centre team as a mixed animal veterinarian. Chloe is



passionate about equine sports medicine, lifestyle block medicine (especially alpacas and goats), and small animal medicine. Outside of work, Chloe enjoys hiking, triathlons, and spending time with her husband, cat, and dog.

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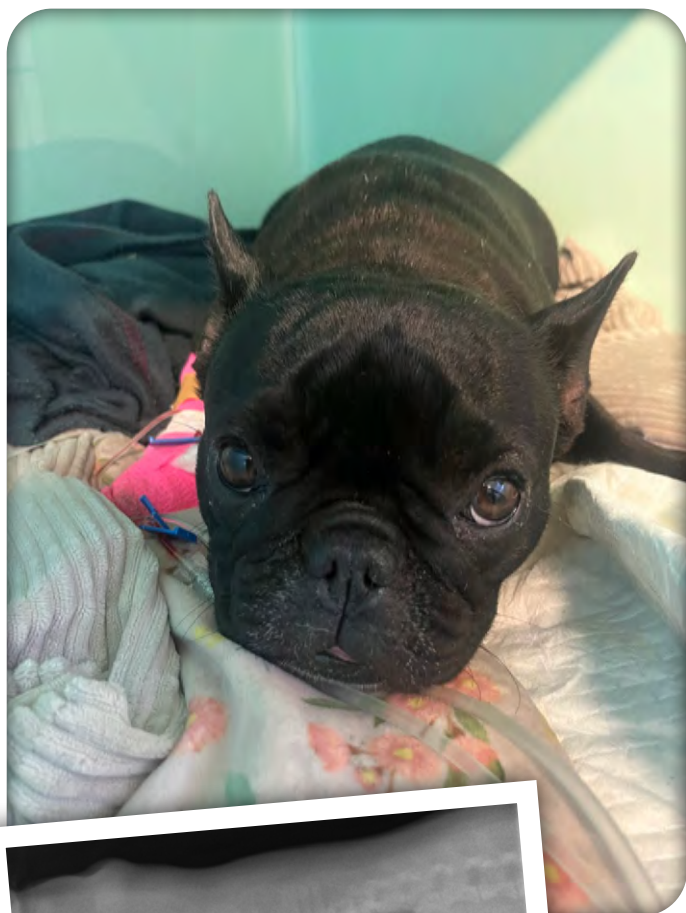
Limited time only!

ROYAL CANIN
FREE Royal Canin Food Storage Container
with your purchase of Royal Canin Food*

ROYAL CANIN
RECOMMENDED
BY VETS & BREEDERS

Limited time only!

*Offer expires on 30/07/2025. Limit of one offer per customer. While stocks last.



Rosie's foreign body



Dr Ashlee Larsen
BVSc
Mixed Animal
Vet

We often use the term “garbage guts” when describing our food-motivated pets, but what happens when they eat garbage?

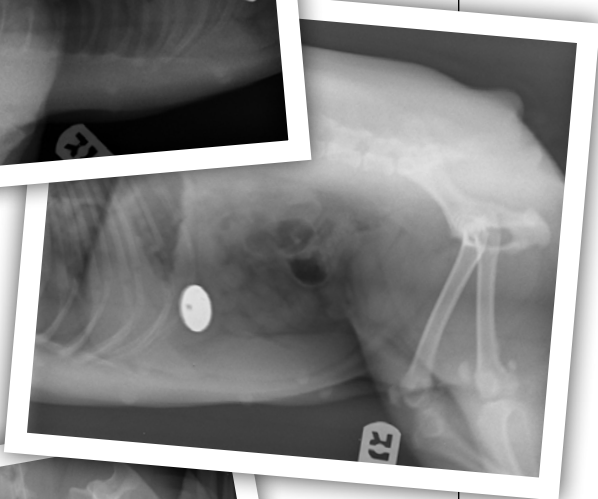
Rosie is a 1-year-old French Bulldog who presented to the clinic in December due to being unwell since that morning. Her initial symptoms included lethargy, reduced appetite and frequent vomiting. However, she was deteriorating fast, becoming more stressed and uncomfortable by the minute, and had begun breathing rapidly and harshly. Her owners made the right call to contact *The Vet Centre*, and she was brought in immediately for an emergency appointment.

Once in the clinic, we stabilised Rosie by administering relaxing agents, pain relief, and anti-nausea medication. We also helped to steady her breathing by providing her with oxygen support. Her acute deterioration indicated the syndrome was severe, and further diagnostics were rapidly pursued to determine the cause.

Radiographs were taken of the abdomen, and the problem was identified: a metallic object was located in her stomach. You can see this foreign body in the x-ray below if you look for the bright-white, circular object. We also took radiographs of her chest as well, which identified another problem: pathology in a portion of her lungs, which was likely due to aspirating vomit.

Rosie needed urgent action to remedy her situation. A surgical procedure was performed that evening, and the foreign body was successfully removed. (Guess what the metallic object was! The answer will be revealed at the end...). Although the surgery went well, she wasn't out of the woods yet, as we still had concerns about how she would recover both from her surgery and the aspiration of fluid into her lungs.

Fortunately, due to the prompt action of her owners and our veterinary staff, Rosie responded well to her medical management. Within a couple of days, she was back to her happy, bouncy self, and in her owner's words, “You would never have known there was anything wrong with her.”





← What should I do if I know my pet has ingested a foreign body?

It is important to contact your local veterinary clinic as soon as possible in all of these cases.

Not all foreign objects require surgery to be removed, as some may pass naturally through the gastrointestinal tract. However, objects that are unable to pass through the gut will result in gastrointestinal obstruction, which is a life-threatening condition. Differentiating these cases requires veterinary assessment, which often includes diagnostic imaging.

Obstructions will often present with symptoms such as decreased appetite, vomiting, lethargy, and abdominal pain. Even if your pet isn't a scavenger, we recommend veterinary assessment if your pet displays any of these symptoms.

What was the foreign body in Rosie's stomach?

Mischief-maker Rosie had swallowed a twenty-cent coin! The coin was unable to move past the stomach's outflow tract and thus resulted in an obstruction that caused her to vomit excessively. The image above shows veterinarians Ashlee Larsen and Andy David holding the coin after successfully performing the surgical extraction.



“Look at this cutie patootie who came in for his 2nd vaccination.”



FREE

YOURS DROOLLY TRAVEL BOWL

when you purchase any 200g-500g Yours Droolly Treats*



*Available during Jan-Feb 2025 while stocks last of the YD travel bowl. Offer includes 200g-500g Yours Droolly Treats (includes Kiwi Grown Large Bags)
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Dr Andy David
BVSc
Companion
Animal Vet

New equipment enhances patient care

In recent months, *The Vet Centre* has made several investments in hardware and software that will improve our clinical capabilities and enhance workflow, all to benefit our patients.

In Mangawhai, we have added a urine sediment analyser to our already impressive in-house laboratory suite (consisting of reference laboratory standard haematology and biochemistry machines and a chemistry urine analyser). The **Sedivue® Dx** automatically processes the urine sample in three steps: an in-built 'gravitational centrifuge' preserves the components of any sediment in the urine sample, which is then placed under a microscope and camera that records the images of the greatest diagnostic quality. An AI 'neural network' then examines the recorded images to enable it to provide the most likely diagnosis of the sediment. The machine can detect cells (blood cells, cells lining the bladder, cancerous cells), casts originating from the kidneys, crystals, and bacteria. All results are recorded on the patient's file (including the images!), enabling a laboratory clinical pathologist to view the images by simply clicking a link. The machine has proven its worth already, and we wonder how we got by without it!

Another recent acquisition was a software platform called '**Asteris-Keystone Omni**', a PACS (Patient Archiving & Communications

System). The system enables the uploading and secure storing of X-ray and ultrasound images and the application of diagnostic parameters to facilitate the diagnosis of specific conditions. For example, the measurement of a patient's 'vertebral heart score' for diagnosis of congestive heart failure. As a cloud-based application, a patient's images can be viewed (with the required permissions!) by anyone with an internet connection, which

includes referral radiologists and specialists in referral hospitals. The system is fully integrated with our practice management software, so images are automatically attached to the patient's file. While we are still getting our heads around the remarkable features of the platform, it has already proved to have been an excellent investment.

Last but by no means least, we have invested in two **Clarius Vet HD3** wireless scanners. These



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*Terms, conditions and exclusions apply. Offer ends 2 March 2025.



COMING SOON



handheld (thus fully mobile) ultrasound transducers enable the recording of 'patient-side' ultrasound images archived in Asteris-Keystone. These devices have remarkable functionality for their size and multiple diagnostic uses, particularly in critical patients (e.g., for the assessment of fluid in body cavities). They have become a mainstay of human and animal clinical practice – the sets we have acquired are optimised for veterinary patients and, like anything associated with tech these days, offer the ability to use AI to interpret ultrasound studies. The two units will be utilised out of our Maungaturoto and Mangawhai clinics, complementing the ultrasound unit in Waipu.



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Parvo FAQs

Sadly, we see too much of this heartbreaking disease. Here is what you need to know.

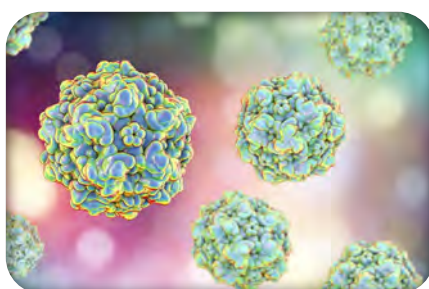
Parvovirus ('parvo') is a highly contagious viral disease affecting the gastrointestinal tract of dogs. Symptoms of parvo are often non-specific to start with, and include lethargy, lack of appetite and fever. This usually progresses to vomiting and bloody diarrhoea. The disease can progress quickly, and severe disease often results in death.

How is parvo spread?

Parvovirus is spread in dog faeces and is extremely resilient in the environment. It can last in the environment for years. Dogs become infected by ingesting contaminated matter (leaves, soil, other dog faeces). If a dog has been sick with parvo on a property before, the property may stay contaminated for years.

Can I keep my dogs safe by keeping them on my property?

Any dog that does not receive its parvovirus vaccine course is likely to become ill with parvovirus, even if it is kept on your property. This is because the virus is everywhere in public spaces and can easily be tracked home to your house. Socialising dogs safely when fully vaccinated is essential - this includes keeping them away from the ground in high-risk public areas until your vet says it is ok to take them out.



How much does it cost to treat parvo?

Dogs sick with parvovirus typically require intensive treatment, costing thousands of dollars. Up to 90% of dogs that do not receive veterinary care will die.

How much does vaccination cost?

Costs vary between clinics but are a fraction of the cost of treatment.

How many shots does my puppy or dog need?

Your vet can advise based on your dog or puppy's age. In general, puppies should have vaccines every 3-4

weeks, starting at 8 weeks old until they are 4 months of age or older. It is never too late to vaccinate your puppy or young dog; dogs 4 months of age or older only require one parvo vaccine to develop immunity.



Kid's Colouring Competition

Win a toy for your pet!

Simply colour in the image on the next page and drop to your local Vet Centre clinic. We will display all entries and choose one winner for each clinic on 31 March 2025. →

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

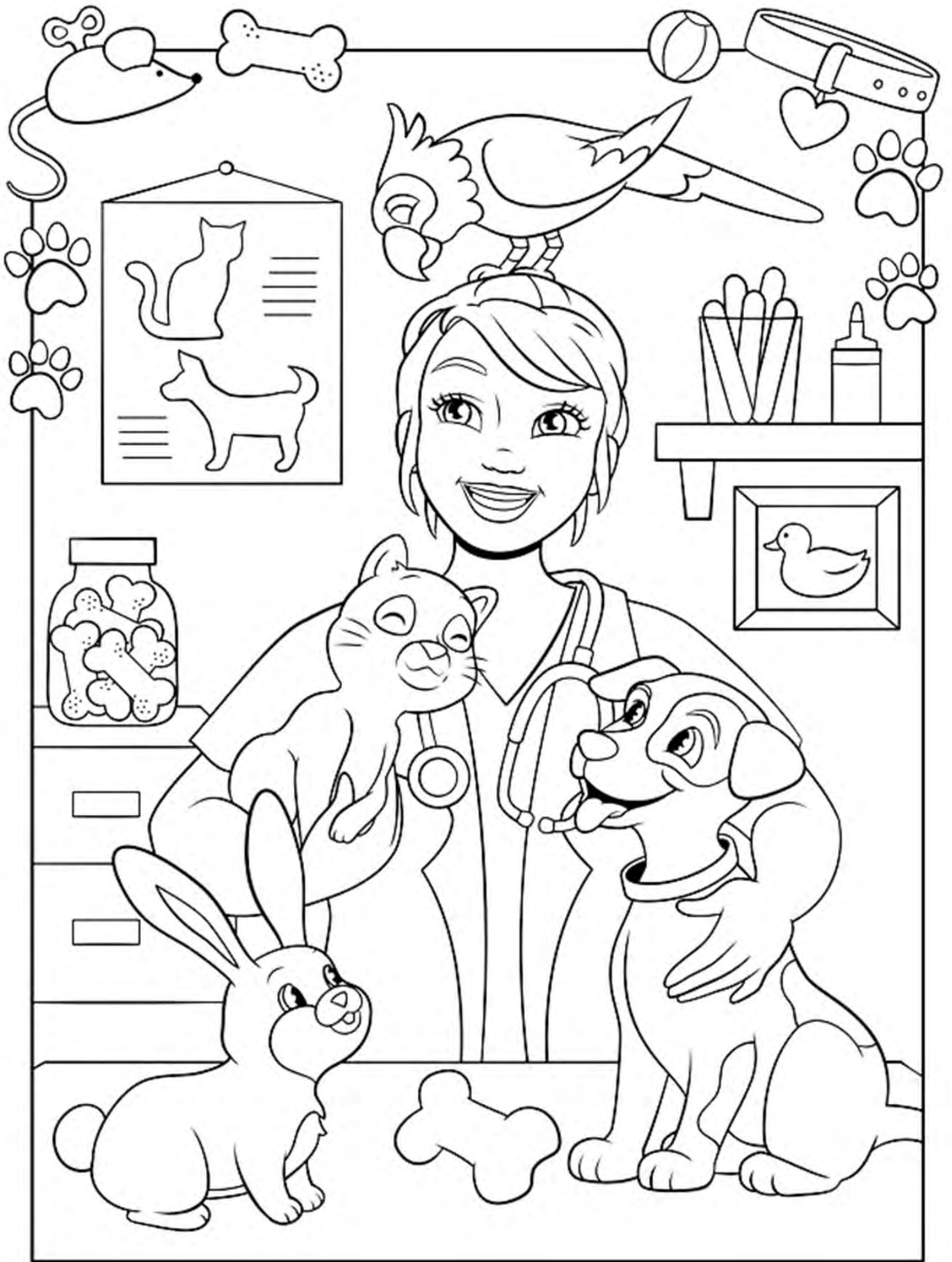
Mon-Fri: 8.00am - 5.00pm
Saturdays: CLOSED

Ruakākā Clinic

385 Marsden Point Road
Ruakākā
P 09 433 4916

Opening Hours

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



Name: _____

Age: _____ Phone: _____