

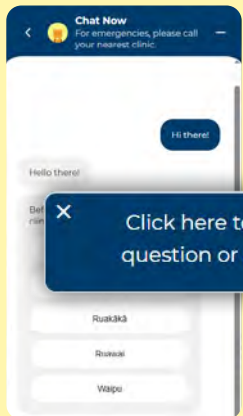


The Vet Centre



WAIPU | RUAWAI | MANGAWHAI | MAUNGATUROTO | RUAKĀKĀ

June/July
2025



Click here to ask Florence a question or make a booking



Rabbit Awareness Week 24th-28th June

Here are all the rabbit care essentials you need to know:

Social Needs: Rabbits are highly social and can become lonely – consider getting a second rabbit for companionship.

Diet: 80% of their diet should be hay and grass to support dental health. Limit pellets to a small portion, avoid high-water-content lettuce, and only offer sugary foods like carrots and fruit as occasional treats.

Health Concerns: Rabbits can get lice, fleas, and diarrhoea. Regular health checks and vet-approved treatments are essential.

Desexing: Recommended from 12 weeks old to prevent reproductive cancers and unwanted pregnancies. It helps with bonding and temperament.

Indoor Living: Rabbits can be litter-trained, but they must be kept away from electrical cords, as they are prone to chewing.

Vaccinations

Calicivirus Risk: Rabbit haemorrhagic disease (RHDV) is present in New Zealand, with a highly contagious new strain (RHDV2) expected to spread further.

Vaccines Available: Cylap® protects against the older strain but not RHDV2. Filavac® is recommended as it covers both strains and requires an annual booster.

Timing: Avoid administering vaccines during desexing – best given at post-op checks or general vaccine consults.

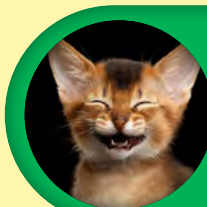
Hello and welcome to another Pet Update

It's exciting times at *The Vet Centre* with the launch of our new website, complete with Florence, our very clever virtual assistant, who is available 24/7. And yes, for your added convenience, online booking is here!

Check it all out at <https://www.thevetcentrenorthland.co.nz/>

We hope you and your pets are staying warm, and we thank you for choosing *The Vet Centre*.

Regards
**The Pet Team at
The Vet Centre.**



**JOKE OF THE
MONTH**

How is cat food sold?

ANSWER ON PAGE 3





Caring for our Senior Pets



Dr Michelle Stodart
BVSc, Vet

Caring for senior pets can be challenging at times as their care needs to be adapted to their changing needs. High-quality care includes regular veterinary check-ups, a balanced and age-appropriate diet, dental care, regular parasite control, prompt treatment of any issues, and administration of medications as needed. Consideration also needs to be given to provide any modifications necessary to their environment to improve comfort and mobility. It's also important to maintain both their mental and physical well-being through regular, controlled exercise, games, and spending quality time together.

Our pets all age at different rates due to differences in breed and size. They are considered senior when they have reached about 75% of their expected lifespan. Cats are typically regarded as senior when they reach around 7-10 years of age. In dogs, breed size affects life expectancy, with giant breed dogs considered senior at 5-6 years of age, large breed dogs around 8 years of age and small to medium breed dogs at around 10 years of age.

Regular veterinary checkups are essential to monitor your pet's health and wellbeing, as health issues become more common as they age. Ideally, senior pets should be examined every 6 to 12 months to allow for early detection of any potential health issues. A thorough clinical history and physical examination are performed at a health check. Ideally, a blood and urine sample would also be collected to screen for any abnormalities.

At The Vet Centre, we have recently created senior screening panels. These panels provide comprehensive in-house blood and urine testing for our healthy senior patients during regular health check appointments, allowing for early detection of any potential issues.

These geriatric screening panels include the following tests, as well as the cost of blood collection.

- Haematology or CBC – for monitoring of red and white blood cell parameters
- A comprehensive chemistry panel to assess organs – specifically the liver and kidneys and blood glucose levels
- SDMA (more accurate measurement of kidney function)
- T4 (cats only to check thyroid hormone levels)
- Urinalysis - including Urine Specific Gravity and Dipstick testing on a free catch sample (ideally collected at home on the day of the visit).



The panels enable us to offer this screening service at a highly affordable rate, allowing for the early detection of some of the most common diseases seen in our ageing pets. The panels are heavily discounted at \$280 and provide a comprehensive screen for common health concerns. If any further tests are needed, they will be in addition to the above, with our standard pricing.

To qualify for the package, pets must be in good health. If they are unwell, then unfortunately, the package price will not apply.

For any further information on caring for your senior pet or to book your pet in for a check-up, please get in touch with our friendly customer service team at a clinic near you.

The Vet Centre
People and Pets Parade

Put on your best tartan, then tartan up your pet and gather at the Pizza Barn on Saturday 14th June 2025 at 9:45am for a 10am start

The parade will walk down the main street, ending at The Vet Centre for prizegivng.

Prizes for best dressed:

- Small Dog
- Medium Dog
- Large Dog
- Horse
- Most Original Outfit
- Overall Owner and Pet

For any enquiries, please contact the Waipu clinic
waipu@thevetcentre.net.nz

The Vet Centre
Maungaturoto | Waipu | Mangawhai | Ruawai | Ruakākā

Promote Waipu

www.thevetcentrenorthland.co.nz



Rat Bait Toxicity as we head into winter

With the cooler, damper weather, we are seeing an increase in the number of rats coming indoors, which means a corresponding rise in the use of rat bait. The most common rat baits used in New Zealand are anti-coagulants, with Brodifacoum being the key ingredient in many of them (Talon, Pest Off). Anti-coagulants work by interfering with vitamin K1, which is essential for creating blood clotting factors. When a dog eats rat bait, its clotting factors are depleted over a few days, and it can't produce new ones, so it starts to bleed. If left untreated, they will eventually bleed out and die.

What are the signs of poisoning?

Rat bait poisoning can present in a few different ways, depending on where the animal bleeds. The main signs we see are

- Lethargy
- Pale gums
- Coughing (from bleeding into the lungs)
- Lameness (from bleeding into the joints)
- Bruising on the skin



Less commonly, we see bleeding from other areas, such as gums or bladders with bloody urine. The bait is purposely dyed blue so that it can be seen in the bowel motions, and occasionally, we see dogs present with this.

What to do if I know that my dog has eaten rat bait?

If you think your animal has eaten rat bait, please get in touch with the clinic immediately. If it has been consumed within the previous 2-4 hours, then inducing vomiting can hopefully remove the bait from the stomach so it doesn't get absorbed, although this is not always 100% effective.



Usually purr can!



GET TO KNOW OUR TEAM

Lucille Hitchcock

Lead Vet Nurse, Mangawhai

Lucille is the Lead Vet Nurse at our Mangawhai clinic. She's diploma-qualified and has been working for The Vet Centre since December 2014. She's passionate about companion animals and going above and beyond for all her hospital patients. She says they still teach her things every day, and it is very rewarding to be by their side through their recovery and see the progress they've achieved with your help.



Outside of work, Lucille enjoys spending time with her daughter, husband, dog, and her newly adopted kitten. There is a lot of running around, being silly, going for walks, and visiting our great local parks and beaches. In her own quiet time, she enjoys working on complicated 1,000-2,000 piece puzzles and Sudokus.

Janine Hazelwood

Clinic Coordinator, Waipu

Janine joined the Waipu team as Clinic Coordinator in February 2023. After working as a chef at Outward Bound for nearly nine years, she changed to working in the animal sector seven years ago, when she moved north. The things Janine enjoys most about her position are interacting with our clients, being part of a supportive team, and seeing the animals come in every day.



As a homebody, she enjoys working in her garden and taking her dogs for walks on the beach.

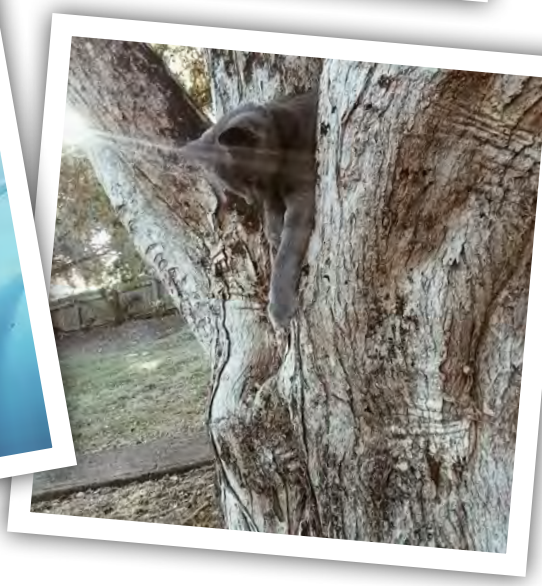
FREE Bravecto Plus when you buy Bravecto Quantum



*Offer ends 31st August 2025. While stocks last.
BRAVECTO QUANTUM requires vet authorisation, ACVM: A011993



**Here are
some of our staff
and their kitties
to celebrate Hug
your Cat Day on
4th of June**



revolution[®] PLUS

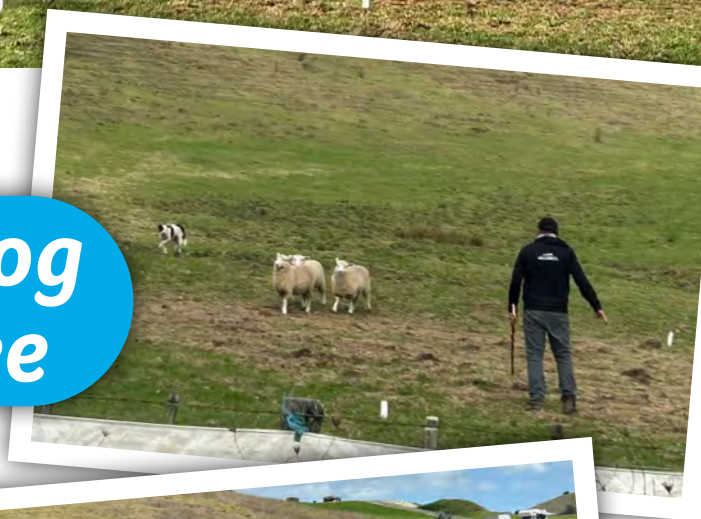
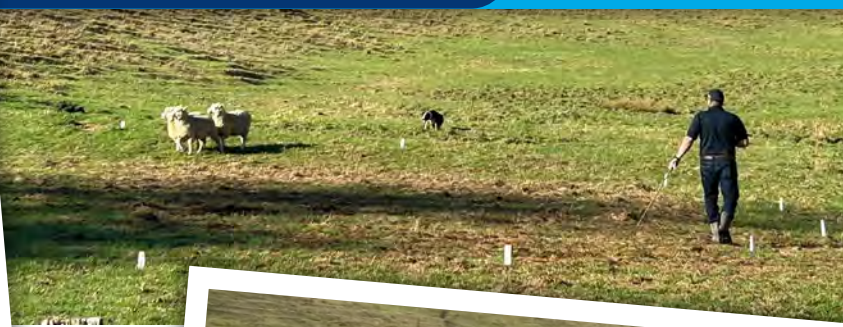
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Molesworth Sheep Dog Trial Club 75th Jubilee

The Vet Centre sponsored the Molesworth Sheep Dog Trial Club's 75th Jubilee back in April, providing support and prizes for the club. The club began its history in Mangawhai, holding the first trial in 1960 on the Hastie and Wharfe farms, now known as The Sanctuary and Tangaroa Road. In 1966, it moved to its current home on Oneriri Road, Kaiwaka. As is often the case in Molesworth trial history, there was some rain (much needed) on day one, with the sun shining on day two, bringing out plenty of visitors, dog trialists and the general public who'd travelled from as far afield as the far North, and Waikato in the South. The two-day trial is made up of four events: two for heading (or eye) dogs, the short head and yard, and the long head, and two for huntaways, the zig-zag and the straight hunts. Some of *The Vet Centre* team members came out for a visit to see what many of our clients are involved in from around the region and got to see a number of the working dogs that have been patients in our clinics, out there doing their 'day jobs'. Congratulations, Molesworth SDTC, on 75 successful years.



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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