



The Vet Centre

Maungaturoto / Waipu / Mangawhai / Ruawai

Nose to Tail

Companion Animal Newsletter

The Winter chill is upon us!

Even though we live in the winterless north, the evenings can get quite chilly and we need to be thinking about keeping ourselves and our pets warm and comfortable. Pets will seek out the warmth, whether it is by the fire, curled up at your feet, or even on your lap! They prefer to be comfortable, and there are many ways you can help them achieve this.

- ◇ Get them a comfy bed – orthopaedic beds are the latest and greatest, especially for senior pets, but any soft, padded bedding will do just fine. It's easier on their joints and keeps them nice and warm.
- ◇ Keep them at a healthy weight over winter with a high quality diet, exercise for dogs and regular weight checks (free at your nearest Vet Centre).
- ◇ Keep them dry when it's wet! Towel them off when they come inside, or get them a snuggly jacket to help them brave the weather systems outdoors. Some cats enjoy having access to a litter tray during the colder months and this can help prevent stress-related urinary issues.
- ◇ Keep an eye out for behaviour changes – slowing down, reduced mobility or changes in appetite. These signs can indicate that your pet is unwell, or suggest arthritis might be setting in. If you see changes like these in your pet, pop in for a check-up and we can help with identifying ways to keep them comfortable. Not all treatments are costly.
- ◇ Water intakes will stay the same even though it's not hot so keep those bowls topped up.

We wish you, your family and your pets good health throughout winter and with some quality snuggle time together.



what's new?

Gold Card Discounts!

Helping Seniors stretch their dollar further.

We are currently working very hard on developing a SuperGold Card programme for our valued senior and veteran clients and their pets. We know how much you have contributed to New Zealand and our local communities and think it is time we pay it forward. Please like us on Facebook to keep updated or watch out for an email in your inbox in the next weeks telling you more.

Senior pet Competition winner - Meet Rainbow!

Rainbow came along to Ruawai clinic after her mum, Mrs. Jury, won the Vet Centre's senior pet promotional offer. Rainbow is a well-behaved patient that quickly became a clinic favourite! She received a full clinical examination, including joints and a mobility check, before very bravely sitting still for her blood tests.

We ran the blood sample in house and had the results back in less than fifteen minutes to discuss with Mrs Jury. All the while Rainbow waited patiently for her results and a discussion of her health.

We also discussed Rainbow's dental care, as minimising the effects of dental disease in older cats is so important. A Senior health check is ideal to pick up problems before they have an impact on pet wellbeing .

A worthy winner, with a lovely name and now a firm favourite at Ruawai clinic. Thank you for bringing her Mrs Jury !



The Vet Centre Wild and Stray Cat Control Programme.

Our Team News at the Vet Centre.

Sarah Briggs joined our Waipu Vet team in March. Sarah returned to New Zealand this year after locuming and travelling overseas for a few years. She is an experienced mixed animal vet and loves creatures big and small and a good cup of tea! A keen runner you might bump into her running the many tracks in Bream Bay with her husband Adam and dog Boomer.

Claire Evans joined our marketing team across the four clinics in May. Originally from Auckland Claire moved to Paparoa in May and has just finished her Tiny House project on her block of land. Her experience with working with big brands like Naked Bus and Smith & Smith will help to bring promotions, deals and events to you that are new, innovative and good value.

Many of you know Michelle Stodart who joined the Vet Centre 15 years ago. Michelle will be going on maternity leave in July. We wish Michelle, Jock and little Kyra fun days and not too many sleepless nights with the new addition to the family.

Laura Greening receptionist at Waipu will not be returning from maternity leave – we wish her all the best with her young family and am sure we will see her around. Locum – Waipu Sonja Kay will be working with us as a part time locum at Waipu in July, August and September. Sonja is a dedicated companion animal vet with 20 years' experience; we look forward to having Sonja join the team.

Wild and stray cat control is a widely discussed topic in New Zealand. Wild and stray cats can cause a lot of damage to our wildlife due to predation. A female cat can become a mother at 6 months of age and at a year a grandmother and a great grandmother. Wild and stray cats also pose a risk to our pet cats due to cat fight injuries and often carry diseases such as feline aids (FIV) which can be contracted by our pet cats from fight wound injuries.

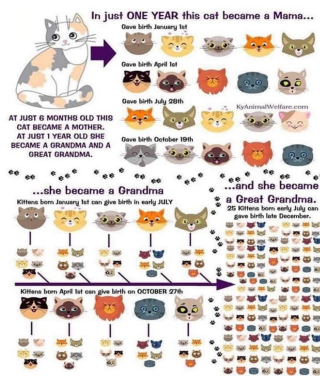


The Wild Cat Control Programme has been run by The Vet Centre since 2009. We are excited to announce that funding has been secured from The Northland Regional Council from August the 1st for the next year to allow us to continue to provide this service to our communities for free. Contact our clinics

to borrow a Humane live capture trap to trap wild and stray cats. Return the trap with the cat to any of our four Vet Centre clinics to be humanely euthanised. A bond is required for cage hire.

All cats brought in under this programme are subjected to a vet assessment, a wildness scrutiny and are scanned with a microchip scanner prior to euthanasia to ensure only wild cats are included in the programme. If there is any doubt as to the status of a cat it will not be euthanised, with all attempts made to locate an owner.

We highly recommend microchipping your cat and registering this chip with The New Zealand Companion Animal Register. Microchipping allows permanent identification of a cat allowing us to track down their owners if they become lost. Microchipping is quick and easy and can be done at any of our clinics.



Responsible cat ownership is also something we wish to promote at the Vet Centre. Responsible cat ownership ensures that a cat is fully looked after and means that cats are well fed and cared for, vaccinated, de-sexed early and microchipped by their owners. As cats are more active during dawn and dusk and at night, keeping cats inside during these times reduces predation of wildlife and also reduces the chances of cat fights, injury and disease spread.

Northland Regional Council also supports pest control programs including advice on controlling feral cats on rural properties.

Please Contact steveh@nrc.govt.nz 027 4767980.

Taniwha Shield u13 Rugby



Four clinics proudly servicing the Mid-North

Maungaturoto
09 431 8318
Waipu
09 432 0693

Mangawhai
09 431 4535
Ruawai
09 439 2506



The Vet Centre

www.thevetcentrenorthland.co.nz

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