

IMPACT REPORT

SPAW Tongatapu
13 – 17 May 2024



OUR TEAM



Team Lead:
Dr Geoff Neal



Dr Felicity Keenan

VETS



Dr Beato Lenoa



Dr Mariska van der Colff



Natalie Knight



Ashleigh Taylor

VET NURSES



Samantha Fergusson



Michelle Schimanski



CLINIC OUTCOMES

Clinic hours	45.5	Dogs desexed	104
House visit hours	19	Dog consultations	207
Veterinary hours	190	Cats desexed	44
Veterinary nurse hours	190	Cat consultations	16
Parvovirus vaccines	170	Livestock treated	29
Parasite treatments	440		

CLINIC VALUE NZ\$231,000

The calculation is based on SPAW costs, donated products, administrative expenses, and professional services. While SPAW does not charge for services, donations are welcomed.



VOLUNTEER FEEDBACK

"This experience has made me realise to never take what we have and do in our daily lives for granted and to realise just how lucky we are in New Zealand to have veterinary care available 24/7 for our beloved animals. The gratitude the Tongan people gave us for helping them is something I will always remember."

Michelle Schimanski, Vet Nurse, Rangitikei, New Zealand

"Volunteering with SPAW is such an enriching experience. You will be pushed out of your comfort zones. You will discover aspects of yourself you did not know you had, working with equally amazing individuals as a team. You will widen your horizons, interacting with animals as well as people of a culture different to your own. You will be made to rethink of how resourceful and resilient you can be, working and improvising in challenging environments while also still providing quality veterinary care for the animals that come to the clinic. You will be made to see that your time and your expertise are extremely valuable and matter to the people of the Pacific Islands who often lack access to quality veterinary services."

Beato Lenoa, Veterinarian - Rolleston, New Zealand

WORD FROM OUR FOUNDER

A team consisting of four veterinarians and four veterinary nurses was assembled to conduct our inaugural field clinic in 2024. Before their arrival on Tongatapu, team members convened online with SPAW Board members to ensure comprehensive briefing and preparation for their island assignment. The SPAW Board organizes these clinics and contributes professional time to guarantee the program's success and enrich the volunteers' experience.

Dr. Geoff Neal, our Chair who led the May expedition, remarked that the team excelled in a demanding setting, which included a severe storm, floods, and power outages. The team received excellent care on the island, with hosted meals and lunch packs provided to the clinic by local residents. Such acts greatly enhance the volunteers' experience. The team's feedback has been uplifting, with many expressing appreciations for the chance to participate in a SPAW field clinic and apply their professional skills effectively. Many noted that immersing in a different culture and forming new friendships while aiding numerous animals was especially profound. Rescuing a puppy that had been trapped in a hole and unable to escape before the storm was a significant moment.

The clinic's results were outstanding, with 64.5 hours of clinic and home visits, 380 professional hours by vets and vet nurses, 400 animals treated, and over \$50,000 in supplies donated by SPAW for this clinic. When calculating the value of the clinic, including the professional time of veterinarians and vet nurses, flights, accommodation, on-island expenses, and overall professional services, the clinic is valued at NZ\$231,000.

We extend our gratitude to our volunteers, our partners on Tongatapu island MAFFF and TAWS, our Premium Partner Zoetis NZ, and the numerous businesses and individuals who supported this clinic.

