



IMPACT REPORT

SPAW Tongatapu
19 - 23 Aug 2024

OUR TEAM



Team Lead:
Dr Helen Roberts



Dr Ashlin Urieli

VETS



Dr Holly Rabone



Dr Jade Hackney



Alex Hansen



Tania Stewart

VET NURSES



Bubbles Otway



Belinda Battersby

CLINIC OUTCOMES

Clinic hours	55	Dogs desexed	117
Veterinary hours	220	Dogs surgery	8
Veterinary nurse hours	220	Dog consultations	250
Parvovirus vaccines	175	Cats desexed	27
Cat flu and cat parvovirus vaccines	50	Livestock treated	5
Flea and wormer treatments	1,206	Total Animals Treated	407

CLINIC VALUE NZ\$256,000

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

"As a New Zealander, I've always felt connected to the Pacific Islands. I've known about SPAW since vet school and found the idea of visiting a new Pacific country and sharing my veterinary skills appealing. There are no permanent veterinarians in Tonga and I was excited about the prospect of exploring a new country, as I love adventures. I anticipated the work would be hot and exhausting but ultimately rewarding. Volunteering offers a unique opportunity to experience a new country and engage with locals beyond the tourist perspective. It's an eye-opening journey. The knowledge that you're contributing, even in a small way, to positive change is immensely rewarding.

The veterinary team consisted of a fantastic mix of vets and nurses. The local Tongan and expat volunteers were incredible, dedicating their time to ensure the clinic's success. Our team worked so hard committing long hours in clinic. Tonga's need for veterinary care is critical. During the week, we treated over 400 animals which further reiterates that SPAW's efforts are imperative to ensuring animals have access to veterinary medicine in the Kingdom of Tonga."

Helen Roberts, Veterinarian, Auckland

WORD FROM OUR CHAIR

A team of four veterinarians and four veterinary nurses was recruited to carry out our third field clinic for 2024 and our second to the Kingdom of Tonga. The team members came from various parts of New Zealand and Australia, with all except two members experiencing Tongatapu for the first time.

Helen Roberts, who led the team, reported extensive working hours tackling particularly challenging cases, including a dog needing surgery after a machete incident and several cases suffering from poisoning and parvovirus.

Due to the demanding workload, the team had limited opportunity to explore Tonga, but they returned to New Zealand with the satisfaction of having made a significant difference in the health and welfare of many animals, despite numerous obstacles.

SPAW's protocols ensure that young canine patients are vaccinated against the deadly parvovirus and cats are vaccinated against cat flu, additionally all animals take home pain medications and two months of parasite care to see them flea and worm free until our next visit.

Franz, Deb, and Little Italy provided meals and pizza for the team and the local community arrived with coconuts and fruit for the volunteers, these kind gestures make the experience so much nicer for volunteers.

We are very pleased to report that 407 animals received care under the experienced SPAW team and we now look forward to more great work during the next SPAW clinics taking place in October and December.

We express our heartfelt thanks to Helen, Ashlin, Holly, Jade, Alex, Tania, Belinda and Bubbles, who faced considerable animal welfare & logistical challenges during their week-long volunteer excursion. Our gratitude extends to MAFFF, TAWs, our Premium Partner Zoetis NZ, and the many businesses and individuals who contributed to the success of this clinic.

Dr Geoff Neal BVSc, Chair

