

IMPACT REPORT

17-21 MARCH 2025
*In partnership with the
Animal Protection Society Samoa*

**VETERINARIANS
VET NURSES**

Team Lead: Dr Geoff Neal, Dr Cathy Pollock
Kimberley Linthwaite, Hannah McInally, Kathrin Maurer

CLINIC OUTCOMES

Desexing – dogs	138	Clinic hours total	42
Desexing – cats	22	Vet volunteer hours	84
General medical	46	Vet nurse volunteer hours	126
Parvovirus vaccines	125	Admin volunteer hours	85
Parasite treatments	460	Volunteer flights	5
		TOTAL ANIMALS TREATED	206


CLINIC VALUE
NZ\$162,075

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

SPAW has collaborated with the Animal Protection Society of Samoa (APS Samoa) for several years now, and it was an honour to lead the first SPAW clinic of 2025 to Upolu on Samoa's main island. Quite a bit of preparation, logistics coordination and freighting goes into these clinics and with this clinic starting mid-March, there was no Christmas break for the SPAW co-ordination team who had to ensure all of what we needed was sorted well ahead of the team's arrival.

Arriving to Samoa on Saturday, myself and the first two team members made the two-hour journey from the airport to Lalomanu with our ute packed full of supplies. It was a quick drop off and turnaround at the accommodation before making the long journey back to the airport in Faleolo to pick up more team members coming on the evening flight. We all finally made it back to Lalomanu at 11pm that night, glad that Sunday was a rest day ahead of our clinic week.

APS Samoa and the local Aleipata Women's Group members had done a huge amount of preparation and advertising prior to our arrival. Our host venue, Taufua Beach Fales, and APS Samoa provided excellent hospitality during

the week making for a successful field clinic across five separate villages - day 1 (A'ufaga), day 2 (Lotofaga), day 3 (Lalomanu), day 4 (Lotopu'e) and day 5 (Saleaumua). Despite very hot and humid conditions, tropical storms, and a last-minute venue change for Monday; the outcomes for the week were excellent.

Our vets, vet nurses and local helpers worked very well together, resulting in 206 animals receiving veterinary care.

Thank you to APS Samoa, our volunteer team, the local Aleipata Women's Group, Glenda Gouws and Karen Schade for their admin support leading up to the clinic, and everyone else who made this clinic a success.

SPAW is looking forward to visiting Savai'i in September, and to a continued collaboration that demonstrates positive outcomes for so many animals.

Dr Geoff Neal BVSc
Lead Veterinarian



VOLUNTEER STORY

I was first inspired to volunteer with SPAW as a colleague had volunteered previously and this was my second SPAW trip. I had a pretty good idea of what to expect however Samoa blew me away! The beauty was astounding and the locals were all so appreciative of us being there.

The volunteer team had a shared love of animals and travel so there was common ground from the get go. SPAW also has very good protocols in place and they resource their clinics very well, so it was easy to find our groove as a team.

Adjusting to a different culture always puts you outside of your comfort zone, however the pros outweigh the cons. One lovely local man stayed at the clinic while we desexed his dog and sang to us through the day, it was truly lovely.

Our case load was consistent - lots of puppies riddled with fleas, ticks and intestinal worms and SPAW always provisions well for these cases, so it is nice to send them home with parasite treatments without the worry of charging for the product or services - it is provided free.

Being a part of village outreach is always special as you go to places many tourists don't visit - it's a more intimate cultural experience than when you stay at a resort.

Leisha and Tino from APS went above and beyond to look after us, and the locals put on a special dinner for us before we left - it was very moving.

Veterinary care on the islands isn't as accessible as what we are used to in New Zealand. Most of the Pacific islands rely on volunteers to provide much needed care for their animals. Working in the veterinary profession can be draining both physically and mentally but these trips are a great reminder of why this is such a special profession! I can't wait for my next opportunity to volunteer.

Hannah McNally
Vet Nurse



FROM APS SAMOA

We wish to express our gratitude and appreciation to everyone who contributed to this clinic, Taufua Beach Fales, the local mens' and womens' groups who rallied their community's support, the villagers who participated and brought their pets and our own APS team. And to the

SPAW team - you guys did an amazing job in making sure each and every animal was cared for to ensure they have healthier lives ahead of them. We look forward to future collaborations with you. May God bless you. We appreciate you all.



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