



# ANNUAL REPORT 2024



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# A WORD FROM OUR FOUNDER



**"Reaching even one animal makes an incredible difference to that life and I am proud that SPAW as a non-profit organisation is actively 'changing the world' for around 2,000 animals every year."**

– Karen Schade, Founder

It has been 14 years since SPAW was founded. It seems like only yesterday that we signed our first Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the then MAFF Minister Lord Vaea on Tongatapu in 2010 and the SPAW volunteer veterinary programme began.

Our journey has been challenging, yet our resolve unwavering. The popular welfare phrase: "You cannot change the world by saving one animal, but you can change the world for that one animal," reflects our vision to help where and when we can. Reaching even one animal makes an incredible difference to that life and I am proud that SPAW as a non-profit organisation is actively "changing the world" for around 2,000 animals every year.

As a full volunteer organisation, our Board, our veterinary and veterinary nurse volunteers, and admin team remain unpaid – every hour is given

free of charge – every dollar donated to SPAW goes into purchasing medicines and to running the SPAW veterinary programme. In 2024, 55 SPAW volunteers desexed 749 dogs and 159 cats as well as provided an additional 1,148 animals with veterinary consultations and treatments while also providing expert care to livestock.

I am incredibly proud of and grateful to our volunteers. Every year we see many returning for another SPAW experience. This year our volunteers collectively gifted 2,740 professional hours to SPAW in the field.

As our tele-veterinary medicine service to Tonga strengthens, this year we have assisted over 500 animals additionally thanks to Dr Geoff's dedication to his profession and to the health and wellbeing of animals living in the Kingdom of Tonga.

As we look ahead to 2025, we will recognise and celebrate 15 years of service and we will continue to be a necessary conduit for veterinary medicine and animal welfare in the South Pacific.

Thank you, each of you for your ongoing support. Countless animal lives are improved thanks to each of you.



## IMPROVING THE LIVES OF SOUTH PACIFIC ANIMALS

SPAW provides free veterinary care to animals living in South Pacific Island communities.

SPAW operates regular field clinics staffed by trained veterinary professionals on islands where there is no, or limited access to, regular veterinary care.

SPAW is often the only lifeline to medical care for those

animals who are injured or sick. Our organisation is a major contributor to reducing the stray dog and cat populations through our regular desexing clinics.

It is our hope that by being present and fostering positive animal welfare activities, that over time people will display higher levels of compassion for all animals.



**"I am proud to manage our tele-veterinary medicine service making veterinary care accessible to animals in remote locations where veterinarians are not present. It is an honour to help our communities in this way and I look forward to continuing our important work of delivering veterinary expertise where it is needed most."**

– Dr Geoff Neal BVSc, Chair



The impact we made in 2024 is significant. I was fortunate to lead several of our clinical teams and I thoroughly enjoyed working with a wide range of professionals who each give their time and skills to benefit the lives of animals in the South Pacific for free. I meet veterinarians and vet nurses from all around the world and it is such a pleasure to guide many of them through their first volunteer experience but also to meet once again those volunteers who are on their second or third tenure with us. Clinical work in the South Pacific always offers challenges however the rewards speak for themselves, aiding more than 2,000 animals every year for free is something we can only deliver as a charity.

Tele-veterinary medicine is now entrenched in SPAW's service offering to the Kingdom of Tonga. With improved internet access across the Pacific over the last five years, we are able to provide clinical care to patients, even when SPAW teams are not in country. Through collaboration with our island partners, SPAW provides tele-medicine consults for people and their animals when problems arise. Our island partners act as a central point of contact within each island community. Our partners on island gather the case details and get in touch with me as SPAW's lead vet here in New Zealand.

The information I work from often includes photos and videos showing the issues of concern. Communication is done via email, telephone or video call. From information received, I am able to organise treatments and medications from SPAW's supplies stored on island. For many animals this means treatment and fixing of their issues within a day, rather than having to wait for the next SPAW team to arrive in person.

One case that exemplifies the work that SPAW's tele-medicine service is able to provide, happened the night of Christmas Eve up in Vava'u. An owner contacted our island partners (Host a Vet) about their dog that had been hit by a car and sustained some very nasty wounds in its groin. Despite the time of year and everything being closed down in Tonga, we worked with the Host a Vet team that night to organise painkillers and other medications that they were able to get to this patient to allow treatment to start over the Christmas break. Follow up contact and further medications dispensed in the New Year, meant that this dog's wounds had all healed up within three weeks of the injury.

Over the last 12 months SPAW has dealt with more than 500 cases via our tele-medicine services across the Kingdom of Tonga. This service is valued at around \$25,000 annually and provided at no charge.

## WHAT WE DO



**Desexing**



**Health checks**



**Vaccinations**



**Volunteer experiences**



**Surgery**



**Parasite control**



**Livestock care**



**Education**

# 2024 IN REVIEW

**749** Dogs desexed



**159** Cats desexed

**1,148**

Medical cases



**86**

Livestock cases



**1,238** CAT AND DOG

PARVOVIRUS VACCINES



**500**

TELE-VETERINARY CASES



**311.5**

Field clinic hours on island



**1,078**

Veterinary volunteer hours

**39.5**

House visit hours on island

**5,200**



Parasite treatments

**722**

Admin volunteer hours



**592**

Vet nurse student volunteer hours



**1,070**

Vet nurse volunteer hours



**55**

Volunteer flights donated

**\$1,318,192**

TOTAL VALUE OF OUR SERVICE IN 2024

## THE VALUE OF OUR SERVICES

The SPAW 2024 Programme was worth just over NZ\$1.3 million collectively to our island partners. The veterinary care provided, volunteer skills and time, logistics, co-ordination, flight and accommodation costs, donated and purchased product all adds up to a pretty remarkable contribution by our organisation.

All of this is made possible due to our large network of volunteers, donors and contributors. There is no doubt that if islands had to fund a programme as diverse as ours, the cost would be significant and their budgets would never enable them to achieve what we can as an offshore charity.



# OUR CLINICS



## SAMOA

**27–31 May 2024**

As our partnership with Animal Protection Society (APS) Samoa strengthens, we see improved results with every visit. Our team of seven (three vets and four vet nurses) and the local APS team desexed 96 dogs, 26 cats and provided care to an additional 23 animals. We dispensed 225 parvovirus vaccines and 110 parasite treatments during 55 hours of clinic.

The clinic is valued at NZ\$147,690. Thanks to APS for working with us to achieve such a great outcome.



## VAVA'U

**28 October–1 November 2024**

Our partnership with Host a Vet Vava'u is one that we cherish. The small team on Vava'u work hard year around to raise the funds to sustain a week-long clinic on Vava'u. Our team of five (two vets and three vet nurses) and the local team desexed 115 dogs, 26 cats and provided care to an additional 90 animals. We dispensed 180 parvovirus vaccines and 705 parasite treatments during 58.5 hours of clinic. The clinic is valued at NZ\$180,865. Thanks to Host a Vet for working with us to achieve such a great outcome.



## TONGATAPU

**13–17 May, 19–23 August, 21–25 October, 6–9 November, 2–6 December 2024**

SPAW has been the prominent veterinary service to Tonga for almost 15 years. 2024 saw SPAW resource five field visits to Tongatapu. We work closely with the MAFF team and the local Tonga Animal Welfare Society (TAWS) to deliver a planned programme aimed at reducing roaming dog populations, ensuring higher levels of health and wellbeing in the island nation's animals and in humane education. SPAW recruited 16 veterinary, 18 vet nurse and 12 Unitec vet nurse student volunteers who gifted 1,555 professional hours in clinic. During those clinics our teams desexed 538 dogs, 107 cats and provided care to an additional 1,101 animals including livestock. We administered 833 parvovirus vaccines and dispensed 4,385 parasite treatments during 198 hours in clinic. The 2024 Tongatapu effort is valued at NZ\$989,635. Thanks to MAFF and TAWS for working with us achieve such a great outcome.





# OUR PARTNERS



## APS SAMOA

In 2024, SPAW collaborated with the Animal Protection Society (APS) Samoa to conduct Samoa's most successful village outreach clinic to date. The clinic was held over five days in late May in Aleipata District, located on the far tip of Upolu, known for beautiful beaches. Aleipata is approximately a 90-minute drive from Apia, making it difficult for most residents to access the APS base and the only available veterinary service in Samoa.

To prepare, APS conducted extensive preparatory work with women's representatives from the district. These representatives mobilised their communities, spoke to them about the opportunity to access outreach veterinary services and encouraged them to bring their pets for general care and desexing.

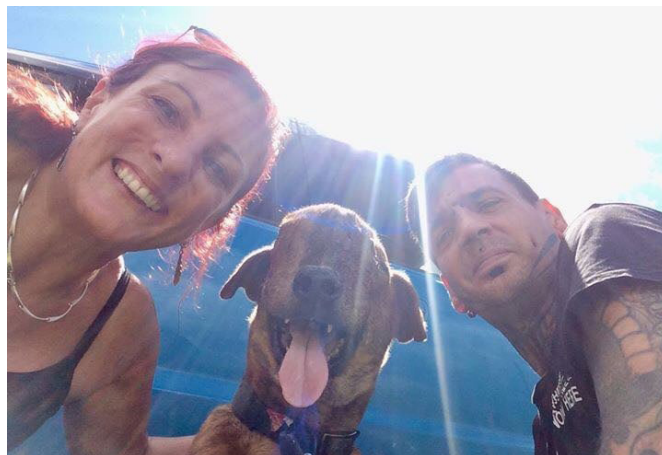
Challenges arose in catching dogs who generally roam during the day. This time-consuming task required patience and perseverance from pet owners and APS staff. The SPAW team worked incredibly hard and long hours. Despite the best preparations, changes necessitated new venues at short notice, a common occurrence on Samoa. With APS' local knowledge and diplomacy, and

cooperation from community members, these challenges were overcome meaning each of the five days were productive, meeting the target for dog desexing per day.

APS is incredibly grateful for the partnership with SPAW, their professional expertise and the medicinal resources they provide to make village outreach possible. Due to the success of our 2024 collaboration, we returned with SPAW to Aleipata in March and we will be returning to Savai'i in September 2025.

**Joan Macfarlane**  
APS Samoa





## HOST A VET VAVA'U

Vava'u is one of Tonga's outer island groups where SPAW's involvement is vital to the health and wellbeing of local animals. Host a Vet Vava'u, an official non-government organisation in Tonga, was founded in 2017 for the purpose of working with SPAW. Each year the partnership between SPAW and Host a Vet has expanded to provide a variety of ongoing services.

In 2024, there was significant growth of community engagement in tele-medicine, Frontline distributions and the annual October clinic. By using the tele-medicine programme, with its access to veterinary advice and basic medicines, people in Vava'u have helped their animals with pain relief, sped up healing and in many cases, saved the lives of their pets and even livestock. Participation in the monthly Frontline Day has provided relief from the itching and skin conditions caused by parasites for hundreds of dogs across Vava'u.

"The high point of the year is hosting a SPAW team for a clinic, whose services make an incredible and long-lasting impact. In 2024, we held the five-day clinic with a full team and an additional two days travelling to more remote villages with Dr Geoff Neal. During that time, SPAW volunteers performed 139 desexing operations, 11 other types of operations, and treated an additional 112 animals. Given our relatively small size, these numbers will have a massive effect on the animal population.

"We are so very thankful for South Pacific Animal Welfare and their donors. Your generosity means that on-going, quality healthcare is available for all kinds of animals here in Vava'u. Malo 'aupito."

**Tracey Meikle and Bodine Cameron**

The Host a Vet team

## THE ANGELA GLOVER FUND

Impact Partner 2024-2027

"The Angela Glover Fund was established in memory of SPAW's friend and colleague, Angela Glover, who we lost in the 2022 tsunami on Tongatapu. Angela and I had gone to the shore to ensure the safety of our dogs, and tragically Angela did not survive. She died while attempting to save the animals she dearly loved. Angela's family and I have created a fund to perpetuate Angela's mission of aiding Tonga's animals.

"Angela remains in our hearts, and in her honour, we carry out a special outreach programme every October. This programme travels across Tongatapu to remote village locations, helping animals in communities that lack the means to reach our main facility in Tokomololo.

"The October programme differs from SPAW's usual efforts in Tonga - the team is tasked with visiting a new location each day in more remote areas where villagers may not have transportation to visit the SPAW clinics held in the main town of Nuku'alofa. A significant advantage of having a roving clinic spread around the island is that people can literally walk their pets to the clinic location if needed. Of course, challenges still arise with rounding up animals that are used to roaming freely, however, each year we improve and gain better uptake.

"Angela loved animals - she fed and rescued so many. The annual outreach in her memory will continue to help the animals she so loved to live healthier and happier lives in the years ahead. I know Ange would be elated with what is being accomplished."

**James Glover**





## VAN DEN BRINK FAMILY

Auckland, New Zealand

Impact Partner 2025

"As a past trustee of SPAW, my family's long-standing association with the organisation is something we cherish. We've witnessed the remarkable work they accomplish with limited resources, consistently exceeding expectations. The board members dedicate themselves to their cause, working relentlessly without any financial gain, to make a significant difference in the lives of countless animals annually.

"My family and I have participated in field clinics and fundraising events over the years. My husband Karl and I are privileged to support SPAW as Impact Partners for 2025, fully aware that our contribution will directly aid numerous animals in need and we encourage people with the means to also consider supporting SPAW financially."

**Louise Van den Brink**



## LESLIE GRANNEY

Impact Partner 2025-2027

We are very pleased to welcome Leslie to our Impact Partner family. Our team was able to assist Leslie during SPAW's October visit to Vava'u.

Leslie says: "Having sailed across the Pacific five times, I've witnessed the evolution of canine welfare over the past 30 years. There's a stark contrast between the idyllic beauty of the South Pacific and the plight of starving, wounded and abused dogs. It's heartbreaking to feel so powerless, able to do little more than toss kibble or buy food for these starving animals.

"Gandhi believed a nation's moral progress can be judged by how it treats its animals, and I share the sentiment that each individual has the power to effect change, it would be immoral not to assist. For me, SPAW is the solution that can make a difference.

"I work in the marine industry, teaching sailing and selling yachts, then I set sail around the world until funds run low, at which point I return to work. Three years ago my parents passed away, leaving me a sum that now allows me to sail full-time. My wonderful Kiwi partner, Peter Sheaff, a former commercial fisherman, and I are currently sailing the South Pacific on our boat Itchy Feet, a 46-foot Outbound yacht. We sailed up the British Columbia coast, then down the west coast, and across the Pacific and are on our way to New Zealand.

"The SPAW team made a positive impact on our lives during their visit to Vava'u in October when we were able to have our dog Scruppers prepped for entrance into New Zealand and we are very grateful to them."

**Lesley Graney**

## ZOETIS NZ

Premium Partner

Zoetis New Zealand has been a lifeline of support to SPAW for more than a decade signing on as a product partner in our first year back in 2010 and 15 years later, they are still by our side helping us make positive change to the lives of so many animals and island communities. Zoetis provides SPAW with a product endorsement package each year, which includes products to help treat and prevent fleas, ticks and mites, products to treat internal and external parasites of sheep cattle and pigs, vaccines for cats and dogs to protect them from fatal diseases, pain relief, antibiotics, sedatives and other medications that improve animal health and welfare.

In addition, through the years Zoetis staff have volunteered on many of our clinics. We are also fortunate to have Veterinary Advisor Dr Victoria Chapman on our board.



# AMAZING PET FOOD DONATIONS

Now and again a special human pops up onto our radar. We give a huge thanks to Lesley Gibson who collected more than 350kgs of pet food for donation to Tonga in 2024. Having recently visited Tonga on a cruise, Lesley got in touch with us wanting to help.

Borrowing her daughter's larger car to fit everything in, in September Lesley drove the 14-hour (1,200kms) return journey from her home in the lower North Island all the way to Auckland to deliver the food. We were then able to ship the food to Tonga, alongside another 250kg of donated food, to be distributed

by our on-island partners – The Tonga Animal Welfare Society and Host a Vet Vava'u.

Lesley commented: "It was a pleasure to gather and drive the pet food up and to help in this way - the food came to us thanks to Nicole Doriguzzi of Ellie's Canine Rescue and Rehome, local businesses and my friend Mandi Jensen donated \$200 toward shipping costs so it was a real team effort."

Lesley's donation will bring much needed nutrition to animals in the Kingdom and happiness to their owners too. Malo 'aupito.



# NEW EDUCATION FLYERS FOR TONGA

Education plays an important role in the animal welfare world. By being consistently present on island, we gain the trust of the local communities and we are able to include them in our overall outcomes. They bring their pets, children and family members with them to witness our work. They see the health of their animals improve for themselves and hence we gain a much stronger

community supporting the health and wellness of their animals. In 2024 we were fortunate to receive a grant from the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) allowing us to design new education flyers for our Tongan community. These are handed out when every patient is checked out of a SPAW clinic. Thank you IFAW for supporting our efforts.



# THANK YOU EVERYONE

We will never forget that our 14-year journey has been made possible thanks to the generosity of hundreds of individuals and businesses – our volunteers and past board members, those who have gifted product, pet food, clinical supplies and hospital

goods, event volunteers who have spent hours organising fundraising events and our on island supporters and partners. Our charity is actively improving the lives of thousands of animals thanks to each of you.



# VOLUNTEER STORIES

## WENDY RICHARDSON

Vet Nurse, Samoa 2024

"This marks my fourth volunteer journey with SPAW, having visited Tonga and Samoa twice each. My dedication to this cause stems from more than just the allure of an island destination; it's not solely about enjoyment. Indeed, the experience is rewarding but also comes with its share of overwhelming moments, heartache and strenuous effort. However, the connections forged, the camaraderie felt, the animals assisted, the community support received and the shared commitment to animal welfare all surpass the challenges faced during these missions.

"I've learned to embark on these trips without any preconceived notions or expectations. Adopting a proactive and adaptable approach is crucial, as island time and logistics are ever-changing and require constant adjustment. Our team's goal was to maximise our impact within our limited timeframe – completing 122 desexing surgeries in five days, coupled with providing parasite control, vaccinations and pain relief, was immensely satisfying for both us and the animals. Personally, my aim was to contribute to a community in need, recognising the privileges we enjoy in a country that supports and cares for pets, unlike some island communities hindered by limited veterinary resources. Additionally, I sought to reconnect with the fundamental reasons for choosing my career and to reaffirm my love for my work."



## MHIRRON FRENCH

VSA Vet Nurse, 13-month tenure in Tonga

Mhirron is a vet nurse from New Zealand, currently on a 13-month volunteer tenure in Tonga.

"SPAW's efforts in Tonga play a huge role in improving animal welfare and community education. Their visits provide not only veterinary care but also equip the local community with knowledge and resources to care for their animals. The appreciation and trust that the community shows towards the SPAW team demonstrates the significant positive impact they have made, the proof is in the numbers!

"My goal while I am here is to work closely with the MAFF Livestock division to help upskill staff in veterinary nursing – specifically around conducting efficient general health checks, providing adequate wound care and encouraging the use of the resources provided by the SPAW teams. Another goal is to improve Tonga's animal welfare through education working closely with the Tongan Animal Welfare Society (TAWS) during their school educational programmes.

"Each day here is its own kind of special. Most weekdays are spent at the MAFF Tokomololo clinic, where I assist the staff with running the clinic. If they encounter anything unusual or new during consultations, we go over it together and determine the best course of action. Often we call on SPAW for advice via their tele-medicine service.

"Outside of the clinic, I've enjoyed getting to know the Tongan community and the other volunteers I've met. It's been amazing to connect with so many people through SPAW, VSA and MAFF. The warm hospitality and slower pace of life here have made my experience even more rewarding."





## HUI STRENGTHENS RELATIONSHIPS IN THE NEW ZEALAND ANIMAL WELFARE INDUSTRY

SPAW was invited to a hui with animal welfare management groups from across New Zealand on Thursday 10 July 2024 in Wellington. This group operates under the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI), focusing on animal welfare and emergency responses during disasters.

SPAW's founder, Karen Schade, attended and shared her thoughts: "Attending this significant hui at HUHA's impressive new rescue centre in the Hutt Valley was an honour. As a welfare agency serving the South Pacific, SPAW gained insights on enhancing our own capabilities for an emergency response to disasters that could positively impact the island communities we serve. Animals play a vital role in our communities and face risks of displacement, injury or death during emergencies

such as volcanos, earthquakes, fires, floods, tsunamis and pandemics. The sub-function's role in animal welfare during emergencies is crucial."

The sub-function agencies ensure animals' needs are met when their owners or caretakers cannot, due to the emergency. In such events, MPI coordinates with these agencies for animal rescue and evacuation, shelter, provision of food and water, husbandry, veterinary care and other essentials.

Representatives in the sub-function include the SPCA, Animal Evac, HUHA, the New Zealand Veterinary Association, Federated Farmers, Companion Animals New Zealand, Massey University's Veterinary Emergency Response Team and the New Zealand Institute of Animal Management.

## ANIMAL WELFARE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TRAINING

In August 2024, SPAW was invited to participate in Animal Welfare Emergency Management training. Gina Kemp from the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) conducted the training, which saw participation from various welfare agencies and government representatives. The course was run with support from the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW). Karen, our founder and welfare advocate, attended as SPAW's representative receiving her certificate of completion following the training.

The training aimed to equip participants with the skills to assist in providing animal welfare during a Civil Defence emergency. Emergencies can happen naturally or otherwise including any explosion, earthquake, eruption, tsunami, land movement, flood, storm, cyclone, plague or epidemic.

Attendees gained certification in the Companion Animal Welfare Unit Standard 23695.

Topics included the human-animal bond and its implications for emergency personnel, relevant legislation such as the Animal Welfare Act 1999, Codes of Welfare establishing a temporary animal housing facility, care for animals at the facility, safe handling of companion animals and procedures for the admission and release of animals, including dealing with affected owners during an emergency.

A fundamental aspect of disaster response involves ensuring people's safety and securing appropriate shelter for animals until families can either return home or arrange alternative living arrangements for themselves and their pets.





## OUR JOURNEY

In 2010 South Pacific Animal Welfare (SPAW) was founded in New Zealand to provide free veterinary care to animals living in island communities in the South Pacific through a programme of regular field clinics. SPAW's founder Karen Schade flew to Tonga in February 2010 to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the Tongan government and set to form a Board and register the charity. In 2010–2011 we had a newly formed board and were a registered charitable trust. We introduced our volunteer programme and the concept of running

free veterinary care programmes to The Kingdom of Tonga and then Niue in 2011. At the time, neither Niue or Tonga had regular veterinary services or desexing programmes. Between 2012–2013 in addition to Tonga and Niue, we visited Samoa, Fiji and The Cook Islands for the first time; offering a mix of services including parasite care, desexing and humane education. Between 2014 – 2019 we continued to send teams of veterinarians and vet nurses to Niue, Samoa, Fiji, Vava'u, Tonga and Tongatapu. We also visit 'Eua, off Tongatapu's mainland. In 2018 SPAW and Unitec conducted the first scientific census to count the dog population on Tongatapu. In 2022, after a three-year absence due to Covid-19, SPAW visited Tongatapu, Vava'u and Ha'apai. Signalling our return to field work, a small team of two - Dr Geoff Neal and Dr Rebecca Ladyman - treated more than 400 animals during this visit. The Unitec team also completed a large December clinic. In 2023 we embarked on four week-long clinics to Tongatapu and single week-long trips to Vava'u, Ha'apai, Samoa and Fiji, treating a total of 1,958 animals.

In 2024 we recruited 55 volunteers to undertake seven field clinics to Tongatapu, Vava'u and Samoa, treating a total of 2,140 animals, we participated in professional animal welfare emergency management training and welcomed two new Impact Partners to our major donor family.

## FINANCIALS

January 2024 – December 2024 period revenue from fundraising, grants and other contributions was **\$45,553** and we spent **\$44,683** running our programme.

SPAW keeps operational costs to a minimum and utilises the generosity of multiple industry sponsors and donors, which means we can punch way above our weight when it comes to the services we provide. We do not pay salaries, and this means every penny we raise goes directly to helping animals in need. Each year SPAW receives a significant product donation from Zoetis New Zealand, a relationship we are proud to have

managed for 14 years. We also received a grant for new equipment and educational flyers from the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) and a grant from the Angela Glover Fund along with two Impact Partner donations. In addition, we estimate to have distributed in excess of \$100,000 in medicines, pet food and veterinary provisions donated to us by industry supporters here in New Zealand, to multiple island partners. SPAW would like to thank all of the wonderful people and organisations who generously supported us during 2024.

# OUR PEOPLE IN 2024

Thank you to the amazing administrators, veterinarians and vet nurses who volunteered their skills gifting 3,501 professional hours to our programme that treated 2,140 animals for free during 2024.

**Veterinarians** Dr Geoff Neal, Dr Victoria Chapman, Dr Jim Garven, Dr Robyn Gear, Dr Jade Hackney, Dr Felicity Keenan, Dr Jess Kelly, Dr Beato Lenoa, Dr Gemma Morgan, Dr Laura Nettleton, Dr Lauren Prouting, Dr Holly Rabone, Dr Helen Roberts, Dr Kady Smith, Dr Fiona Spence, Dr Kim Telford, Dr Ashlin Urieli, Dr Mariska Van Der Colff.

**Vet Nurses** Belinda Battersby, Holly Campbell, Maddie Clunie, Sam Fergusson, Alexandra Hansen, Kate Harder, Lynette Heke, Natalie Knight, Kimberley Linthwaite, Sian Manning, Eleanor

McGlip, Bubbles Otway, Cristina Polidori, Lauren Prior, Wendy Richardson, Margie Rutherford, Michelle Schimanski, Akiko Shimoda, Tania Stewart, Ashleigh Taylor, Jess Wooding.

**Vet Nurse Students** Sharon Bedingfield, Charlotte Black, Joanne Jamieson, Greyson Jeon, Carina Lee, Paolina Lloren, Maddie McHardy, Tee Naidoo, Ashriya Narayan, Britta Obst, Rebecca Thompson, Leearzia Toia.

Thank you to our local partners and volunteers who continue to inspire us with their tenacity to bring positive change to the animals in their communities.

**TONGA** Ve, Charles, Nesi, Pua, Kalo, Deb, James, Wayne, Sean, Dior, Amy and Susie.

**SAMOA** Tumema, Tiai, Vai, Mikki, Joan, Leisha and Tino.

**VAVA'U AND HA'APAI** Lina, Lily, Bodine and Tracey.

.....  
**OUR BOARD**  
.....



**Dr Geoff Neal**  
BVSc  
Lead Vet,  
Chair



**Karen Schade**  
NZCertHort  
Founder;  
Education,  
Funding &  
Partnerships



**Lilian Laurence**  
MBA, Dip M,  
Dip Bus, FIMCNZ  
Strategy &  
Governance



**Glenda Gouws**  
Programme  
Administrator



**Aroha Webster**  
BA, PGDipJ  
Marketing &  
Communications



**Dr Victoria Chapman**  
BVSc  
Team Leader,  
Samoa



The board would like to thank **Laura Harvey** for her 10 years of service to SPAW as a trustee. Laura became a board member in early 2014 and resigned at the end of 2024 due to increased work responsibilities. In 2013 Laura organised, fundraised and lead the team of Unitec veterinary nursing students to participate in the first Unitec SPAW collaboration. This clinic has been running annually ever since and is now our largest volunteer undertaking with up to 24 volunteers embarking on an educational clinic held in December of each year in Tongatapu. We extend our heartfelt appreciation to Laura and best wishes for her future.

## THE YEAR AHEAD

2025 is our busiest year yet with seven field clinics scheduled starting with a March clinic to the southern region of Upolu, Samoa. We have five field clinics planned to Tongatapu and Vava'u starting in May and ending in December and a second trip to Savai'i in

Samoa in September. These trips will require recruitment of around 60 veterinary and vet nurse volunteers from around the globe and we have a target to provide free veterinary care to more than 2,000 animals.



# HOW YOU CAN HELP

**SPAW receives no government funding and relies on the goodwill of our supporters to resource our vital work in the South Pacific. Because you care, we know our work is not in vain and we can continue to save lives in the years ahead.**

- ✓ Donate direct to our Give a Little page: **'South Pacific Animal Welfare - Givealittle'**
- ✓ Make an online donation: **[www.spaw.org.nz/donate](http://www.spaw.org.nz/donate)**  
South Pacific Animal Welfare  
**06-03-0195-0679497-000**
- ✓ Leave us a gift in your will
- ✓ Host a fundraising event in your home or workplace
- ✓ Donate your drugs and veterinary supplies
- ✓ Follow us on social media  
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## CONTACT US

Volunteering: Glenda, [volunteer@spaw.org.nz](mailto:volunteer@spaw.org.nz)  
General: Karen, [enquiries@spaw.org.nz](mailto:enquiries@spaw.org.nz) • +64 27 527 3642  
Veterinary: Geoff, [vet@spaw.org.nz](mailto:vet@spaw.org.nz)

[www.spaw.org.nz](http://www.spaw.org.nz)

