

IMPACT REPORT

20-24 OCTOBER 2025
*In partnership with
the Angela Glover Fund*

**VETERINARIANS
VET NURSES**
Team Lead: Dr Geoff Neal, Dr Helena Tran
 Sarah McCulloch, Larissa McKeachie

CLINIC OUTCOMES

Desexing – dogs	146	Parasite treatments	1046
Desexing – cats	14	Clinic hours total	47
Additional surgeries	3	Vet volunteer hours	97
General medical cases	360	Vet nurse volunteer hours	141
Livestock	9	Admin volunteer hours	80
Parvovirus vaccines	275	Volunteer flights	5
		TOTAL ANIMALS TREATED	532

CLINIC VALUE
NZ\$209,000

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



LEAD VET COMMENTARY

This year marked the third clinic held on Tongatapu in memory of our dear friend and colleague Angela Glover. Her legacy continues to inspire meaningful outreach and this clinic remains a special part of SPAW's calendar.

Unlike our other Tongatapu clinics, "Ange's Clinic" as we refer to it, operates from a different village hall each day – bringing care directly into communities across the island. This mobile format adds layers of complexity to daily logistics but the 2025 team took it all in stride. Remarkably, the three other volunteers who joined me for the week were all new to SPAW and to Tonga, yet their work ethic and commitment to the cause was faultless and as a result helped achieve yet another outstanding clinic result.

Thanks to their efforts, 532 animals on Tongatapu are now healthier, safer and better cared for.

These clinics are never a solo effort. We were expertly supported by the Tongan MAFF staff, TAWS volunteers and VSA team members Dr Jade Hackney and Mhirron French. Their contributions, both in preparation and throughout the week, were essential to the clinic's success.

Ella Burke, a young expat whose parents are stationed in Tonga with the Australian Defence Force, has assisted us during previous clinics primarily in patient recovery and surgical support. This year she stepped up to volunteer alongside me, allowing one of our SPAW nurses to focus on more complex procedures. Ella's initiative and reliability made a real difference.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this clinic.

Dr Geoff Neal BVSc
Lead Veterinarian



VOLUNTEER STORY

When passionate people come together – amazing things start to happen. This clinic required some focussed co-ordination between SPAW, TAWS, MAFF and VSA on Tonga – it is a perfect example of an effective collaboration.

As a VSA volunteer working with MAFF on Tonga, I am extremely proud of the team here, their growth, enthusiasm and eagerness to learn continues to inspire me. SPAW's support plays such a huge role in this development, providing opportunities to strengthen practical skills and confidence through real clinical experiences – for which I'm incredibly grateful.

Each day brought a new location – often an unfamiliar

community – requiring the team to adapt, set up and deliver care in a completely new environment. It's not like other clinics where we return to a familiar site; every day is different, and the team's effort and teamwork are truly amazing.

Together, we're creating lasting change – one animal, one village and one partnership at a time.

Mhirron French
Volunteer Services Abroad



THE TONGAN ANIMAL WELFARE SOCIETY (TAWS), THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND FORESTS (MAFF), AND VOLUNTEER SERVICES ABROAD (VSA)

Community engagement in the selected villages was outstanding, thanks to strong local advertising and outreach. We extend our sincere thanks to the TAWS board members and MAFF staff whose deep connections within these communities helped drive participation and awareness. The VSA team also played a key role in managing front-of-house operations and conducting a majority of the medical consults.

We acknowledge the valuable support from:

- VSA - Dr Jade and Mhirron
- TAWS - Debra, Salesi, Laukau, James, Elizabeth, Cecilia, Prue, Lindsey, Paula and Ella
- MAFF - Didi, Nesi, Tina, Fua, Melie, Hepi, and Miu.



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