

IMPACT REPORT

17 – 21 AUGUST 2026
In partnership with MAFF

VETERINARIANS

Team Lead: Dr Kyleah Traber
 Dr Angelina Piccoli, Dr Holly Horn

VET NURSES

Gamze Karaoglan, Sheridan Blake, Wendy Robertson, Margaret Loh



CLINIC OUTCOMES

Desexing – dogs	150	Parasite treatments	804	TOTAL ANIMALS TREATED	628
Desexing – cats	20	Clinic hours total	48	VALUE OF SERVICES	NZ \$208,350
Additional surgeries	3	Vet volunteer hours	144	The calculation is based on SPAW costs, donated products, administrative expenses, and professional services. While SPAW does not charge for services, donations are welcomed.	
General medical cases	452	Vet nurse volunteer hours	384		
Livestock	2	Admin volunteer hours	75		
Parvovirus vaccines	200	Volunteer flights	7		

LEAD VET COMMENTARY

This was my second SPAW trip and first as team leader. Our team quickly found its rhythm and worked exceptionally well together. With three veterinarians supported by four nurses, the staffing balance proved effective, allowing everyone to keep pace with the demanding workload.

To improve efficiency, we began pre-preparing post-operative medications, including pain relief and flea and worm treatments the night before, in clearly labelled take home medication bags according to patient weight ranges. This practical solution, suggested by fellow veterinarian Angelina based on her experience with previous spay-neuter programmes, helped streamline patient discharge procedures.

Holly brought a measured and meticulous approach to her work. She maintained a great attitude throughout the clinic, willingly assisted with consultations, and managed a high case load through the week.

We were fortunate to have a fantastic team. Angelina, an exceptionally fast and skilled spay-neuter surgeon, kept the surgical programme running at a high pace throughout the week, while Shin, a JICA vet from Japan on a two-year secondment, managed the majority of the many consultations.

The nursing team was hardworking, capable and highly professional. They stood out for their efficiency, ability to multitask and were calm under pressure. They kept sterilisation processes running smoothly and ensured the surgical team always had what they needed.

Overall, it was a highly successful clinic with a dedicated team who worked collaboratively to provide excellent care for every patient – **628 patients** through the clinic in a week is an outstanding result. Well done everyone who helped facilitate this clinic.

Dr Kyleah Traber
 Lead Veterinarian,
 New Zealand



REFLECTIONS FROM TONGA: MAKING A DIFFERENCE TOGETHER

This SPAW Tonga clinic was a rewarding experience, made even more memorable by an incredible team that worked well together throughout the week. Beyond the veterinary work, it was fascinating to learn more about Tongan culture and the relationship people have with their animals. While the scale of the need can feel overwhelming, there was real satisfaction in knowing we were making a meaningful difference for each animal and family we helped.

From a nursing perspective, one of the biggest challenges was keeping pace with a busy surgical schedule. With three veterinarians operating simultaneously, the team worked together to ensure medications were prepared accurately and patients had everything they needed for discharge. On our busiest day alone, around 37 surgeries were completed, with more than 100 individual medication packs carefully prepared and labelled for patients to take home. As the week progressed,

the team developed a more efficient system by preparing and labelling medication packs in advance according to weight ranges. This significantly improved workflow and sped up patient discharge times.

The experience highlighted not only the impact of the clinics themselves but also the importance of teamwork, adaptability and finding practical solutions to challenges along the way.

I enjoyed my volunteer experience and would love to do it again.

Wendy Robertson,
Vet Nurse,
New Zealand

