



**Companion
Animals NZ**
A Good Life for Animals

NGĀ KARAREHE HOA O AOTEAROA

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ANNUAL IMPACT

1 April 2023 - 31 March 2024

Priming our 'A Good Life' Strategy

www.companionanimals.nz



He kura te tangata,
he kura te mokai.

People are treasures,
animals are treasures.

OUR VISION

**A nation that values, respects,
and responsibly cares for
companion animals**

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This document celebrates the highlights and achievements of our organisation over the past year. It showcases our efforts, successes, and the impactful work we've done in promoting positive animal welfare. Please note that this document is not the audited financial report. For those interested in viewing the audited document, it will be available on the Charity Services website late 2024.



IMAGE CREDIT
COVER: JO MOORE PHOTOGRAPHY



ENTITY INFORMATION

Legal Name of Entity

Companion Animals New Zealand is a Charitable Trust (CANZ).

Entity Type and Legal Basis

Companion Animals New Zealand is a Charitable Trust, Incorporation number 50054968, and a registered Charity under the Charities Act 2005.

Charities Registration Number

Registration Number with DIA Charities: CC27849.

Entity's Purpose or Mission

To advance companion animal guardianship by influencing policy, codes of welfare and industry standards, and promote a harmonious relationship between companion animals, the environment and people through the delivery of high-quality research, advocacy, and education.

Main Sources of Entity's Cash and Resources

CANZ primary source of funding is through receipt of income from the registration of microchipped animals on the New Zealand Companion Animal Register (NZCAR). Additional sources of funding include investment income and conferences.

Main Methods Used by Entity to Raise Funds

The only fundraising CANZ completes is via biennial Companion Animal Conference and occasional donations from individuals as CANZ is a donee organisation for tax purposes.

Physical Address

C/- New Zealand Veterinary Association
Level 2, 44 Victoria Street
Wellington 6011
New Zealand

Postal Address

PO Box 27273
Marion Square
Wellington 6141
New Zealand

Website: www.companionanimals.nz

Email: manager@companionanimals.nz



Entity Structure

Companion Animals New Zealand is a Charitable Trust focused on supporting the facilitation of a harmonious relationship between companion animals, people, and the environment.

The Trust is governed by an Executive Board comprising of:

- One representative from the New Zealand Veterinary Association, appointed by the New Zealand Veterinary Association;
- One representative from the New Zealand Veterinary Nursing Association, appointed by the New Zealand Veterinary Nursing Association;
- One representative from the New Zealand Kennel Club, appointed by the New Zealand Kennel Club (Dogs New Zealand);
- One representative from the New Zealand Cat Fancy, appointed by the New Zealand Cat Fancy;
- One representative from the Royal New Zealand Society for the Protection of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA), appointed by the SPCA;
- One representative from the New Zealand Institute of Animal Management, appointed by the New Zealand Institute of Animal Management;
- Up to four Members based on expertise to meet the goals of the Society.
- Such other members as the Society shall decide, as recommended to Members by the Executive Board for ratification.
- There shall be a minimum of six Executive Board Members, but no more than 12.

The Executive Board meet at intervals of between 6 weeks to 2 months, or as required throughout the 12 months ended 31 March 2024.



CHAIR'S NOTE

I was privileged to step into the role of Board Chair in September 2023, and I look forward to guiding our organisation towards delivering a brighter future for our companion animals.

Companion Animals New Zealand (CANZ), originally established in February 1996, remains a collaborative effort among various animal welfare organisations. Our diverse Board provides valuable insights and expertise, ensuring we continue to foster a harmonious relationship between companion animals, people, and the environment.

The New Zealand Companion Animal Register (NZCAR) has become the leading national database for linking pets with their guardians, with over 1.3 million pets registered and relationships with nearly every veterinary clinic, the SPCA, animal rescues, and more. Our partnerships extend nationally and internationally, furthering our reach and impact.

We focus on positive animal welfare with a New Zealand lens, using our data to provide timely insights and shape what a Good Life for companion animals looks like in theory and practice. Combining science with practical information, we aim to ensure a better future for pets, starting with their human guardians.

This past year, we've seen a decline in cat and dog registrations, likely due to a cool down in pet adoptions and breeding post-COVID, as well as economic and emergency-related challenges. Despite these difficulties, we are committed to supporting animal guardians alongside various organisations. Community-driven events such as our EQuiChip® horse microchipping series, remain a key component of how we plan to embed the importance of microchipping and registration for all companion species, across the country.

Our conference was a great success, and overseeing the recruitment of our dedicated team has been rewarding and instils a great sense of excitement for what is ahead. Now, with a solid foundation, we are focused on expanding our reach and achieving meaningful outcomes for animal welfare in New Zealand.

As we move forward, let us remember that "the best way to predict the future is to create it."



Steven Thompson
Companion Animals NZ Chairman
(Sept 2023 - present)

EXECUTIVE BOARD



Steven Thompson
Chairman of the Board
(Dogs NZ Representative)



Sarah Brittain
Deputy Chair
(Open position)



Becky Murphy
NZ Veterinary Association
Representative



Sue Brown
Treasurer



Zena Pigden
NZ Cat Fancy Representative



Dr Arnja Dale
RNZSPCA Representative



Kieran Best
New Zealand Institute of Animal
Management (NZIAM)
Representative



Amy Ross
NZ Veterinary Nursing
Association Representative



Andrew Hannan
Open position



Vikki Hamilton
Open position

The Board of Trustees includes representatives from six key stakeholders: RNZSPCA, NZVA, NZVNA, Dogs New Zealand, NZ Cat Fancy, and NZIAM. Additionally, the Board can appoint up to six Open Position Trustees with expertise in various fields.



A GOOD LIFE FOR ANIMALS: DIRECTOR'S NOTE

The 2023-2024 financial year has been an exciting year for CANZ as we actively broadened our organisation's scope. Following a visionary strategic retreat at the end of 2022, the realisation of our "Good Life" vision began in early 2023 with the development of the Good Life Centre's objectives.

We have evolved from primarily managing animal registrations on our national database, the NZ Companion Animal Register (NZCAR), to engaging in comprehensive research and developing change programmes aimed at significantly improving animal welfare standards across the country. This strategic shift allows us to focus on long-term, positive welfare outcomes for companion animals in New Zealand.

Throughout 2023, recruitment and planning took place, culminating in a renowned conference in March 2024 that launched the Good Life Centre. We were pleased to have the Minister responsible for Animal Welfare join us at the conference, alongside esteemed animal welfare researchers and speakers.

Personally, I am grateful for the opportunity to have led Companion Animals NZ as its Chair for the past four years, overseeing major developments to our NZCAR and the new charitable trust with clear objectives around promoting a Good Life for animals. It was time for me to move on to the next challenge, and I am very fortunate to have the Board's support in stepping away to establish the new Centre. I am also deeply grateful to my Vice Chair for his unwavering support and for agreeing to step into the role of Chair.

Having had a particularly difficult year personally, living through the recovery efforts in Hawke's Bay following the extreme weather events, I reflect on how crucial it is to encourage communities to come together to improve the welfare of companion animals.

I would like to extend a massive thank you to everyone who has helped us along the way – from partners, to sponsors and research collaborators. Your support has been invaluable. With a dedicated Good Life team now in place, we are set to begin delivering on our ambitious goals.



Prof Nat Waran

Companion Animals NZ Chairman (2019 - Sept 2023)
Director, A Good Life Centre (Sept 2023 - present)

HIGHLIGHTS & REFLECTIONS

*“Join us as we take you
through our 2023-24 year”*



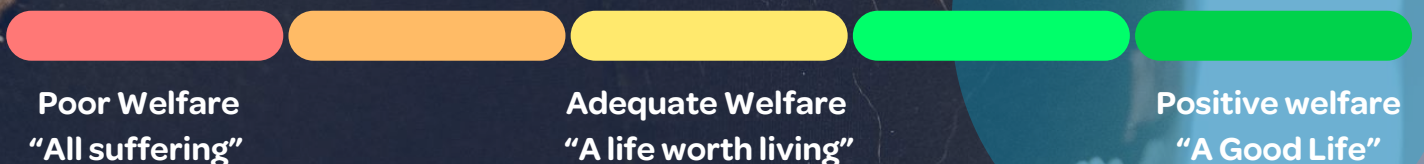
**Companion
Animals NZ**
A Good Life for Animals

A GOOD LIFE CENTRE

Spearheaded by Companion Animals New Zealand, this Centre aims to elevate welfare standards, through emphasising the importance of positive experiences, and outcomes for companion animals.

We do this by driving systematic changes in knowledge and culture to influence animal guardians (owners), relevant organisations, and local/central government and policy makers.

Welfare continuum



Where we focus!

A GOOD LIFE CENTRE LAUNCHES



In the 2023-2024 year, Companion Animals NZ embarked on significant initiatives to promote positive animal welfare and advance the concept of a Good Life for companion animals. This period marked the launch of the 'A Good Life Centre', officially introduced during the March 2024 Conference and also welcomed three new team members.

The Companion Animals NZ Board has made an investment in working towards the ambitious strategy of creating a Good Life for animals in New Zealand. While we have always been committed to ensuring all companion animals thrive with responsible guardians, we now have an arm specifically set up to drive us toward a world where every companion animal experiences the Good Life they deserve. The recruitment of this new team, introduced in the following page, was a significant achievement in the past year and signals the acceleration of the strategy.

Focused, robust surveys carried out prior to the conference helped form a picture of the current state of guardian perceptions around cat and dog happiness. The 'Animals as Good Citizens Workshop' following the conference further dove into some of the key considerations required when looking at what barriers there are, and the types of information needed for human behaviour change. Collaboration at the International Society for Equitation Science (ISES) Conference further strengthened our international ties and research efforts. Simultaneously, we began curating a comprehensive content suite on our website, featuring research insights and practical advice for pet owners.

Our commitment to excellence in research was underscored by collaborations on international grants. These include partnerships with international universities and grants awarded by the Hong Kong Jockey Club and the Swedish FORMAS, highlighting our global reach and impact in promoting a Good Life for horses. In November 2023, Director of A Good Life Centre, Professor Nat Waran, independently presented a final report to the Fédération Equestre Internationale (FEI) in Mexico. The report, which was the culmination of 18 months of work, lays the foundations for a Good Life for horses in sport. These milestones exemplify our dedication to advancing animal welfare standards globally through research, education, and advocacy.



A GOOD LIFE CENTRE OBJECTIVES

PURPOSE

To 'raise the bar' for all companion animals so that they enjoy a good quality of life.



OBJECTIVES

The development of this new research and education centre has three key objectives:



I. Define and promote the concept of a Good Life for Companion Animals in the New Zealand context.

II. Develop effective strategic approaches to drive initiatives related to human behaviour change to continually raise standards of animal welfare for companion animals in NZ.



III. Initiate, co-ordinate and collaborate on applied research, education/ knowledge transfer and advocacy programmes/ initiatives to achieve Good Life outcomes for companion animals.

A GOOD LIFE CENTRE TEAM



Professor Nat Waran (BSc (Hons) PhD (Cantab))

Director, A Good Life Centre

As the inaugural Director of this new initiative, Nat is committed to advancing the wellbeing of companion animals through driving ambitious research and human behaviour change programmes. Based in the Hawke's Bay, Nat is an animal welfare scientist and educator with 30-plus years of experience here and abroad, in applied research, and the design and delivery of evidence-based education initiatives. Before returning to NZ in 2016, she was the inaugural Director of the Jeanne Marchig International Animal Welfare Centre at the University of Edinburgh, collaborating with various organisations to advance animal welfare in developing countries.



Dr. Nicola McDonald (DVM NZNVE CertBM)

Animal Welfare Operations Officer

Nic is a veterinarian with extensive experience in production animal and equine health. Nic oversees our EQuiChip® programme, accreditation, and engagement activities like webinars. Previously, Nic spent 12 years in veterinary practice and established a successful equine dentistry practice in the Central North Island, while also providing vet services on her family farm in Reporoa. She has valuable experience in animal health, project management, community engagement, and programme oversight, which she is eager to apply at Companion Animals NZ.



Dr. Gosia Zobel (BA(hons), MSc, PhD)

Welfare Science Programmes Coordinator

Gosia lives outside Hamilton with her family and wonderful goats. She has two decades of experience in animal behaviour and welfare research and is dedicated to improving how animals in human care experience their lives. She has a strong interest in the natural behaviour of animals and how it can be used to understand the needs of individuals. At Companion Animals NZ, Gosia is focusing on research collaborations and initiatives to drive human behaviour change. She believes good scientific practice includes sharing findings in a thoughtful and accessible way, which ensures our research is trustworthy and done with the utmost integrity.



Rebecca Cameron (BA)

Marketing and Communications

Bec lives in the beautiful Bay of Plenty and has 17 years of experience in communications and marketing. As the former National Communications Manager for SPCA New Zealand, Bec found her passion for animal welfare and was lucky enough to lead advocacy campaigns and manage a dynamic earned media space with an incredible team. Here at Companion Animals NZ, she is excited to share more about positive animal welfare and create content which will be useful to animal guardians - ultimately with the goal of animal welfare front of mind for New Zealand.

MARCH 2024 CONFERENCE



COMPANION ANIMALS IN A CHANGING WORLD

12 - 13 March, Hamilton

On 12 March 2024, more than 120 animal welfare experts, including researchers, advocates, and senior figures, gathered in Hamilton, New Zealand, to discuss the impact of the changing world on our pets. Hosted by Companion Animals New Zealand, this biennial conference serves as a platform for diverse perspectives in animal welfare and fosters industry-wide collaboration. The day featured insightful presentations on themes such as changing expectations, climate, lifestyles, and how to provide a Good Life for companion animals in a changing world.

Keynote speakers, including professors and expert practitioners from around the world, discussed topics such as the impact of societal and lifestyle changes on pet health and welfare, research on retired greyhounds in the UK, and the environmental footprint of pet management. Hon Andrew Hoggard, Minister responsible for Animal Welfare, opened the conference by underscoring the intrinsic value companion animals hold in New Zealanders' lives.

The conference concluded with a gala dinner announcing the Assisi Awards winners, honouring individuals whose dedication advances animal welfare.



2024 Assisi Award winners (see page 16 & 17)





ASSISI AWARD WINNERS



Every two years, passionate animal welfare advocates are celebrated at the esteemed Assisi Awards ceremony, hosted by Companion Animals New Zealand (CANZ) to honour individuals whose dedication advances animal welfare globally.



Dr. Helen Beattie

Dr. Helen Beattie of Dunedin has dedicated her life to animal welfare, blending clinical practice, advocacy, and leadership to become a prominent figure in the veterinary community. As the founder of Veterinarians for Animal Welfare Aotearoa (VAWA), and now serving as Managing Director, Helen exemplifies unwavering commitment to advancing animal welfare in New Zealand. Her work drives significant change and promotes the pursuit of A Good Life for animals nationwide.



Julia Stevenson-Renwick

Julia Stevenson-Renwick, a beacon of compassion in Kawerau, founded KTown Community Animal Welfare Society, rallying local animal lovers into a force for good. For 18 years, Julia has dedicated herself to rescuing and rehoming needy animals, and volunteering with the SPCA for 15 years. Her impact on the eastern Bay of Plenty is profound, with KTown CAW desexing over 700 animals between December 2020 and March 2023. Julia is an unsung hero making a significant difference in her community.



Hartley Holder

Hartley Holder, driven by her passion for animal welfare, founded Auckland Cavy Care at 14 years old. Now 25, alongside her mother Raylene Holder, she transformed their home into a sanctuary for abandoned guinea pigs and other animals. Together, they ensure each animal receives necessary care and finds a loving home, building a strong public profile through media and educational outreach. Hartley's dedication extends beyond guinea pigs to include stray cats, rabbits, and other animals, exemplifying exceptional commitment to animal well-being.



Dr. Hayley Squance

Dr. Hayley Squance of Palmerston North is internationally recognised for her expertise and dedication in emergency management. With a background as a qualified veterinary technologist, she has made significant contributions as a practitioner, researcher, and educator. Hayley's leadership is evident in founding the Massey University Veterinary Emergency Response Team and her work for the Ministry for Primary Industries on disaster response. She has coordinated animal welfare interventions in over 50 disaster events, including earthquakes, floods, wildfires, terrorist attacks, and the COVID-19 pandemic, collaborating with international organisations like the World Organisation for Animal Health to further her impact in emergency management.

"In a world where compassion for all sentient creatures is paramount, we are truly fortunate to have such individuals in our communities. Their work to ensure a 'Good Life' for animals is aligned to our work at Companion Animals New Zealand and for that, we are forever grateful for their efforts and are so proud to have celebrated them."

- Steven Thompson, CANZ Board Chair



LAUNCHING EQuiChip®

EQuiChip® is a community initiative consisting of events where horse owners can come together to have their horses microchipped and registered on a national database. The objective is to enhance equine welfare through enabling positive identification of horses throughout New Zealand.

Founded by Companion Animals New Zealand in 2023 after Cyclone Gabrielle, the initiative started in Hawke's Bay and the Wairarapa, where more than 200 horses were microchipped and registered across four microchip days. The weather disasters of last year highlighted the importance of identifying all companion animals, including horses, to safeguard against being lost or stolen, and to prepare for emergencies and biosecurity threats.

As outlined in our sponsor section later in this document, a number of organisations pulled together to ensure these events were possible and accessible to the community.

Professor Nat Waran recalls the dire need for the event: "In the days after the cyclone, many of our community searched for their horses, posting desperate Facebook messages, circulating photographs for identification, and contacting the emergency centres. In circumstances like this, being able to more effectively identify a horse and its ownership through a microchip will help improve the chances of reuniting a horse and its human."

The EQuiChip® campaign will continue into the 2024 calendar year to promote the importance of microchipping and registering horses to ensure lost horses can be found more quickly and reunited with their owners. Seven community EQuiChip® events have been planned around the country.



ACCREDITATION

In New Zealand, animal behaviour is an unregulated industry. This means that any person, regardless of their experience, education, or training methodologies, can advertise themselves as an animal behaviour professional (e.g. a trainer, behaviourist, behaviour consultant).



While there are many fantastic animal behaviour professionals out there, there are also those who are inexperienced, ill-equipped, or using outdated methodologies that can be harmful to animals both physically and mentally.

This is where CANZ Accreditation comes in.

For a professional to become CANZ Accredited, they must meet high standards including:

- Using humane training methodologies that put animal welfare first.
- Being committed to clear and honest communication with clients.
- Undertaking appropriate continuing professional development on an annual basis to maintain and enhance their skills.
- Having a clear understanding of their area of expertise, and seeking qualified professional advice or referral as needed.

These professionals undergo a robust assessment process to gain accreditation, and there are ongoing requirements to maintain accreditation too. So, you can be confident when choosing a CANZ Accredited professional that you are getting the best, both for you and your animal.

In the last financial year, we welcomed seven new accredited professionals to our programme.

At the end of March 2024, we had a total of 24 professionals in the programme.

Our Accredited Organisations



NZ COMPANION ANIMAL REGISTER

Microchipping and registering your animal is an important part of responsible ownership. The New Zealand Companion Animal Register (NZCAR) helps lost pets get home to their worried families. The NZCAR was created by Companion Animals New Zealand and has registered over 1.3 million animals.

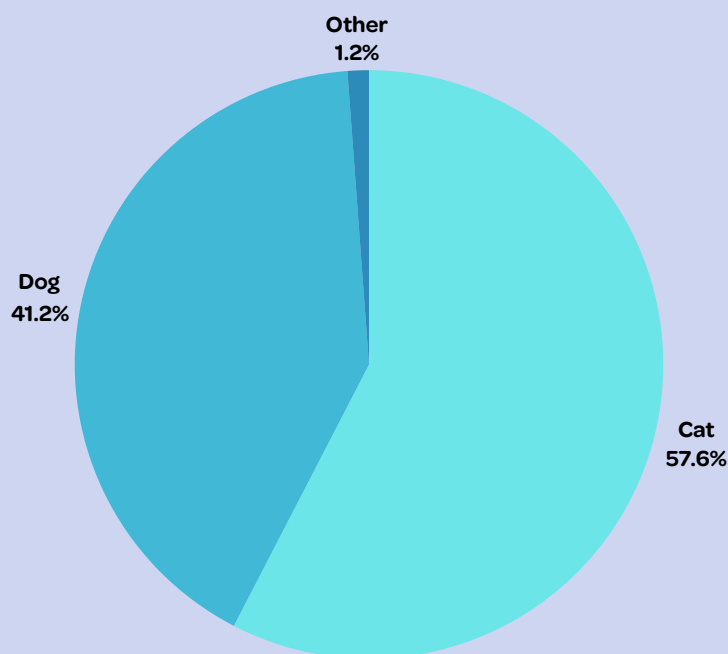


In 2021, the NZCAR was totally revamped making it faster and easier to use for animal guardians and NZCAR Approved Users (such as vet clinics and SPCAs). For the last three years, we have been building on this progress and making continual improvements to our functionality and user experience. This included the integration of LostPet (a free lost and found listing service for both microchipped and un-microchipped pets), providing even more opportunities for people to be able to communicate with the purpose of getting lost animals reunited with their families.

In line with other organisations around New Zealand, and reflecting similar issues worldwide, there has been a reduction in the number of animals registered in the past year. We believe this is due to financial considerations, and a reflection of many decision-making factors following COVID and natural disaster situations. These events place additional stresses on individuals and families already grappling with multiple challenges. We are currently developing our surveys to better understand these trends and what support people might need in order to prioritise microchipping and registration.

119,440

= Number of new companion animals registered year ending 31 March 2024



Top 10 species registered in order of highest numbers:

- Cat
- Dog
- Rabbit
- Horse
- Guinea pig
- Rodent
- Bird
- Donkey
- Lizard
- Goat



NZCAR COLLATERAL

Our services extend beyond simply reuniting lost pets with their families. We provide our Approved Users and guardians with complimentary resources to ensure their pets' safety. In addition to our brochures and fridge magnets, we now offer carrier and lead tags.

Throughout the year, we have successfully distributed hundreds of Halo Scanners and Bluetooth scanners to veterinary clinics and animal shelters.



Supporting Disaster Recovery

At the beginning of the lengthy and ongoing recovery after Cyclone Gabrielle, we had an in-person response team to help identify animals. We were proud to gift 125 registrations for our NZCAR to Takiwatanga Sanctuary for their community microchipping day.

SHELTER REGISTER AOTEAROA



Shelter Register Aotearoa was a project undertaken after the need for a national database of stray and unwanted companion animals was identified as being helpful to New Zealand animal welfare organisations.

The establishment of a national database is required to facilitate standardised data collection amongst shelter and rescue organisations in New Zealand. This database would capture the minimal data required to compile a picture of the animals entering and leaving shelters/rescues.

A challenge is the fact shelters are time-poor and ensuring timely and accurate reporting is very difficult. The project was paused in April 2023 and a decision made to review this programme of work and data collection, which is still pending.

Between June 2022 to April 2023 we tracked the movements on 10,468 surrendered cats and 1055 surrendered dogs. In the same time frame the shelters had 8713 outgoing cats (a net gain of 1755 cats) and 1036 dogs (a decrease of 251 dogs in shelters).



United in purpose, a group of rescue organisations across New Zealand collaborated with Companion Animals NZ to help us gather vital shelter statistics. The aim was to create a comprehensive national database to better understand and support the thousands of at-risk animals in our communities.

Due to time constraints, limited resources, and delays in receiving timely data from busy rescue groups, the national shelter statistics project is currently paused.

SUBMISSIONS, RESEARCH & INDUSTRY ENGAGEMENT

*“We amplify our impact and
drive meaningful change
across the industry”*



RESEARCH & PUBLICATIONS



Surveys

"What does 'a good life' look like for companion animals in New Zealand?" (EA06260224).

Published reports/proceedings

- Natalie Waran, Rebecca Cameron and Denise Angelsey: Conference Proceedings: A Changing World for Companion Animals (ISBN: 978-1-7386121-3-0).
- Randle, H, Waran NK, Williams J and Bradshaw-Wiley, E (2023) A Good Life for Horses. Proceedings of the 19th International Conference of the International Society for Equitation Science, New Zealand (March 2023) ISBN: 9781864674422.
- A Good Life for Horses – Equine Wellbeing and Ethics Commission Final Report for FEI (Mexico Nov 2023) (Chaired by Prof N Waran).

Research papers - contributions from our people

- Forrest, Rachel, Leena Awawdeh, Maria Pearson, and Natalie Waran. (2023). "Pet Ownership in Aotearoa New Zealand: A National Survey of Cat and Dog Owner Practices" *Animals* 13, no. 4: 631.
- Boonhoh, Worakan, Tuempong Wongtawan, Prarom Sriphavatsarakom, Natalie Waran, Phatcharaporn Chiawwit, Noppharat Tanthanathipchai, and Naparat Suttidate. "Effect of feeding toy and the presence of a dog owner during the feeding time on dog welfare." *Veterinary World* 16, no. 8 (2023): 1721.
- Boonhoh, Worakan & Saramolee, Prachid and Sriphavatsarakom, Prarom and Amaek, Waluka and Waran, Natalie & Wongtawan, Tuempong. (2023). Preference of dogs towards feeding toys made of natural rubber, and their potential to improve canine behaviour: A study based on owners' observations. *Applied Animal Behaviour Science*. 270.
- Boonhoh, Worakan, Tuempong Wongtawan, Prarom Sriphavatsarakom, Natalie Waran, and Chaiwat Boonkaewwan. "Factors associated with pet dog behavior in Thailand." *Veterinary world* 16, no. 5 (2023): 957.
- Boonhoh, Worakan, Tuempong Wongtawan, Prarom Sriphavatsarakom, Natalie Waran, and Chaiwat Boonkaewwan. "The validation of Thai version of canine behavioral assessment and research questionnaire (C-BARQ) and the exploration of dog ownership in Thailand." *Journal of Veterinary Behavior* 68 (2023): 7-14.
- LE Deeming, NJ Beausoleil, KJ Stafford, JR Webster, N Cox, G Zobel. "Evaluating the immediate effects of hoof trimming on dairy goat hoof conformation and joint positions." *Veterinary Research Communications* 48 (2), 1073-1082.
- G Zobel, E Barnaby, T Watson "Seeing beyond gait: A case study identifying chronic laminitis in 3 goats." *Small Ruminant Research* 227, 107068.

You can view all our published pet information articles on our website at www.companionanimals.nz.

ADVOCACY & SUBMISSIONS

We continue to advise on issues impacting companion animal welfare within New Zealand, such as local and regional government bylaws and topical issues like the rehoming of retired greyhounds.

- Submission to Wellington City Council in favour of the proposal for mandatory desexing.
- Submission to Whangarei District Council in favour of retaining bylaw officer.
- Submission on the Palmerston North bylaw reviewing its rules for keeping animals, specifically in relation to supporting reducing the desexing age limit from 6 months to 4 months for cats.
- Submission to Nelson City Council on a cat management bylaw that would require mandatory microchipping, microchip registration, and desexing for all companion cats in the region.



Topics we remained vocal on:

- Advocating for the continual update of Companion Animal Codes of Welfare.
- Supporting new legislation to prevent prolonged tethering of dogs.
- Committing to help rehome greyhounds should the commercial greyhound racing industry end. We want to help address welfare risks and, in our case, assist with the microchipping, registration and desexing, as well as offering to facilitate discussions with rehoming agencies.
- Continuing to speak about the difficulties of pets in a rental housing market to stakeholders and the media.
- Advocating for national standards for accredited professionals in relation to ethical humane training and behaviour modification.

Did you know?

New Zealand has a world-leading Animal Welfare Act 1999, recognising animals as sentient and outlining proper care and behaviour towards them. Our country's science-based outlook has influenced international legislation, to adopt a proactive "duty of care" approach to preventing animal pain, suffering, and distress. It is fundamental to our work that we protect this and advocate for continual improvement.

ADVISORY GROUPS

National Cat Management Group

Companion Animals New Zealand is a part of the National Cat Management group, which recognises the intrinsic value of cats as complex and sentient beings, their value as a companion animal in New Zealand, and their value to communities and society. It also recognises the importance of balancing the needs of cats, cat owners, and cat carers with the potential negative impacts of cats on communities, other species, and ecosystems. The New Zealand National Cat Management outlines recommendations and supporting evidence to achieve humane management of cats in New Zealand to protect both cat welfare and our unique environment.



MPI's Animal Welfare Emergency Group

The Companion Animals New Zealand General Manager is the Deputy Chair of MPI's Animal Welfare Emergency Group, which helps to coordinate animal welfare services in emergencies (like earthquakes and floods); they ensure planning is in place and maintains the Government's reporting and advisory capability on animal welfare in an emergency.

Environment Select Committee oral submission on the Erica Rowlands Petition

Following our written submission, we were invited by the Environment Select Committee to make an oral submission on the Erica Rowlands Petition regarding the mandate for registration and desexing of pet cats and kittens. During this, we expanded on the benefits of the New Zealand Companion Animal Register.

INDUSTRY EVENTS

We attended events where we could speak about welfare initiatives and our New Zealand Companion Animal Register.

- New Zealand Institute of Animal Management Conference - Wellington, September 2023.
- New Zealand Veterinary Association and New Zealand Veterinary Nursing Association Conference - Wellington, June 2023.
- Equifest - Taupō, October 2023.
- Pet Expo - Auckland, April 2023.
- National Cat Management Group meeting to present on Shelter Register Aotearoa and NZCAR - April 2023.



SPONSORS, PARTNERS & GRANTS



“We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our donors, sponsors and partners who make our work possible”

SPONSORS & PARTNERSHIPS



Equine Identification and Traceability System (EITS) Preparations

Currently, there is no national database or system to ensure the New Zealand horse population is prepared to respond to equine disease. This means there is no certain way of knowing how many horses there are, where they are, or how to contact their owners, in the event of an emergency or to contain the spread of an equine disease.

The impact of this would mean it would take a significant amount of time and human resources, and thus would likely compromise successful disease containment. The New Zealand Equine Health Association (NZEHA) has now partnered with Companion Animals NZ (CANZ) to work on establishing a system called the Equine Identification and Traceability System (EITS).

The partnership revolves around using the NZCAR system to capture the equine identification information, as our system is already set up to accommodate such information at a national level.

While work is still very much in early stages, the partnership involves engagement across a broad stakeholder group, both from a technical database perspective and from the view of ensuring the EITS objectives and rationale is well articulated for New Zealand horse guardians.

NZ has approximately 100-130k horses, of which about 70k are likely to be leisure or sport horses. Horses are moved about, change homes, and mingle at shows. This can present a biosecurity risk if horses are not traceable.



SPONSORS & PARTNERSHIPS

Thank you to our March 2024 “Companion Animals in a Changing World” Conference sponsors:



Thank you to our EQuiChip sponsors and partners:



Poraiti Pony Club

Waipukurau Racecourse

GRANTS WE SUPPORTED

Companion Animals New Zealand use the service of another Trust to distribute funds on our behalf. The Companion Animals NZ Trust is dedicated to supporting projects beneficial to the community, those that provide care and protection to companion animals, and projects that directly improve companion animal welfare and urban animal management.



The Companion Animals NZ Trust has four award types and there are two funding rounds per annum. Awards are funded by Companion Animals Trust, Companion Animals NZ, and SPCA New Zealand. Companion Animals New Zealand is proud to have contributed \$180,000 to this Trust between 1 April 2023 and 31 March 2024. Recipients of the Trust awards for that time are outlined below.

Companion Animals Trust Desexing Award Recipients July 2023:

- The Society for Animal Care Turangi (70 cats)
- Bay of Islands Animal Rescue Trust (25 dogs)
- Auckland Cavy Care (24 guinea pigs and rabbits)
- Upper Hutt Animal Rescue Society (34 cats)
- Coast to Coast Cat Rescue (100 cats)
- North Auckland Animal Rescue Charitable Trust (25 dogs)
- Stratford Companion Animal Assistance Trust (120 cats)
- Golden Bay (40 cats)
- Harmony and Hope Animal Rescue Trust (30 cats and dogs)
- KTown Community Animal Welfare Society (58 cats)
- Chihuahua Rescue (10 dogs)
- OSCA (35 dogs)

Companion Animals Trust Microchip Award Recipients July 2023:

- Kitty Haven (50 cats)
- OSCA (50 cats and dogs)
- Coast to Coast Cat Rescue (100 cats)
- Country Retreat Animal Sanctuary (25 dogs)
- QT Community Cats (100 cats)
- SPCA (575 cats and dogs)
- Pound Hounds Rescue Charitable Trust (100 dogs)

Companion Animals Trust Desexing Award Recipients February 2024:

- Retired Working Dogs (20 dogs)
- Catopia (80 cats)
- Lonely Miaow (82 cats)
- Upper Hutt Animal Rescue (34 cats)
- Bay of Islands Animal Rescue (50 dogs)
- The Helping Paws Charitable Trust (120 cats)
- Auckland Cavy Care (70 guinea pigs)
- QT Community Cats (62 cats)
- Ruakaka (34 dogs)
- Whangarei Cat Rescue Trust (132 cats)
- The Animal Sanctuary Trust (31 cats and dogs)
- Community Cat Coalition (125 cats)

Companion Animals Trust Microchip Award Recipients February 2024:

- Cat Care (70 cats)
- Gutter Kitties (200 cats)
- Cats Protection League Canterbury (100 cats)



GRANTS WE RECEIVED

Ministry for Primary Industries
Manatū Ahu Matua



We were privileged to receive a grant from Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) who awarded Companion Animals NZ more than \$8,000 in September 2023 to support EQuiChip initiatives in Napier, Hastings, and Waipukurau, aiding the recovery of rural communities impacted by Cyclone Gabrielle.

General Manager's Final Word

We are committed to making a difference, whether it's reuniting companion animals with their families, through our disaster recovery efforts, or by longer-term research to raise the bar on animal care.

Our organisation is distinguished by the rich data we hold about New Zealand pets. Our NZCAR is an invaluable resource. It provides a unique platform for us to step into new and exciting spaces, allowing us to offer unparalleled insights and support to pet owners.

Our data not only informs our strategies and initiatives but also enhances our ability to advocate for and implement effective animal welfare policies. This is something we are very proud of. We hope you have seen the wonderful impact we have had this year in this report, with our small but strong team delivering for our companion animals every day.

Looking ahead, we envision further advancements and enhancements to our services and resources, ensuring that CANZ continues to be a valuable asset for pet owners and a leading advocate for animal welfare in New Zealand.

Together with our supporters, partners, sponsors and research collaborators, we look forward to achieving even greater milestones in pet welfare across New Zealand.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Lloyd".

David Lloyd
Companion Animals NZ
General Manager



Companion
Animals NZ

A Good Life for Animals

Ngā mihi nui ki a koe mō tō tautoko



THANK
YOU

very much for your support

www.companionanimals.nz

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