

Dear Clients,

As another breeding season rolls around, we are preparing our troops to provide you with the best possible service over this eventful time!! As a clinic we have been working hard behind the scenes to ensure all policies and procedures are reviewed and updated and all systems are operating at maximum efficiency 😊

We have also recently completed an in-house CE Day for all Altano New Zealand clinics and including other referral vets in the area, where we looked at upskilling the team in things like laryngeal ultrasound, distal limb casting, wound care, antibiotic selection and use, suspensory branch injuries and more!! Our nurses also held their own in-house CE Day delving into safer lunging tips, over the wire catheter placements, sick foal set up, sub palpebral lavage (spl) parts and troubleshooting and x-ray plate holding and safety.



To strengthen our team culture and collaboration, we have recently completed a team building event which included a highly entertaining Murder Mystery 80's style where teams battled it out to interrogate suspects and solve the mystery!!



Breeding season is approaching, and one service we are pleased to offer is **foetal sexing**, which currently remains underutilised. The optimal window for this procedure is between 58–65 days, although with increasing experience, it can sometimes be performed successfully outside this range. Occasionally, the foetus may be positioned in a way that makes sexing impossible, in which case no result will be provided.

This service requires advance booking with the team. If you require a certificate of accuracy, please **notify our staff at the time of booking your appointment**. Dr Alec Jorgensen has been performing foetal sexing for many years and has carefully tracked his results, showing an accuracy rate of around 98% when a determination is made.

As with every season, there are a few changes to the veterinary team and there will be some new (as well as old) faces gracing your farms and stables. While we're sad to announce that Dr Jamie Gibbs won't be returning to New Zealand this season, Dr Chris Beggan will be returning and assisting us with our reproductive work on the weekends while he continues to study for his surgical residency exams.

We farewell Dr Douglas Black who has been a huge part of the business for nearly 40 years and has been crucial in shaping Hamilton Veterinary Services and its successes. We wish Doug a very happy retirement but are looking forward to having Doug assist us on a casual basis during sales times.

A new member to the team is Dr Owen Schumacher as a permanent veterinarian.

Dr Owen Schumacher

Owen received his veterinary degree at the University of Tennessee in 2020 and then completed a large animal internship at Iowa State University in 2021. Since 2021, he has been working as an equine veterinarian at a busy practice near Portland, Oregon. Growing up in a family of veterinarians, he knew from an early age that veterinary medicine would be his career path. He enjoys all facets of equine practice but has a special interest in emergency/critical care, reproduction, dentistry, and general wellness. He enjoys hiking, biking, running, and going to the movie theater in his free time. He will be travelling to New Zealand with his long-term girlfriend and senior tabby cat, Marge. He is excited about the opportunity to work with the clients and horses of the Waikato area.



Recently we congratulated Dr Isobel Lee and Dr Mia Vorster on completing their internships. This opens up space for two new interns starting in August joining Dr Danter Vorster and Dr Anastasia Vialov who are now 6 months into their internship.

Dr Maeva Saint-Omer

Maëva is from Lyon, France and will be graduating from the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies in July of this year. She has a keen interest in surgery as well as sports medicine, lameness and rehab. Maëva will be joining WEVC for an internship in the hopes to go onto a surgical residency in the future.

Having grown up in the United States, she has developed a love for traveling and enjoying the outdoors. In her spare time, Maëva enjoys riding which she has been doing since she was 4, running and you can often find her watching F1 grand prix on Sundays. She looks forward to exploring what New Zealand has to offer and hopes to get her scuba-diving license.



Dr George Wardle

George graduated from the University of Liverpool in 2023 and has since been working as a mixed animal veterinarian in the UK. George wishes to grow his knowledge and skills in equine veterinary medicine in particular and enjoys the extra diagnostics this area has to offer. Outside of work George has interest in running, fly fishing, music and sports.



Nursing Team

Within the nursing team Chloe Joyce has taken over the Nurse Coordinator role assisted by Hannah-Marie Elliot as 2IC. Kendyll Lee will also be joining the nursing team for the season having previous stable experience.

Kind Regards,

Beccs Tucker

Clinic Coordinator

Waikato Equine Veterinary Centre