



Companion Animals NZ

Welfare Update

Kia ora,

Welcome to spring where the days are longer, the lambs frolic, the bulbs bloom and the weather continues to be extreme and unpredictable!

We have been busy in the welfare space with the Shelter Register Aotearoa pilot programme well underway, and projects around A Good Life for companion animals in the pipeline. Dr Erin Jones has been contracted to review and revamp our Animal Behaviour and Accreditation programme and has been busy recruiting new organisations and members. Erin gives us an update below.

We continue to advocate for mandatory desexing, microchipping and registration of cats on the NZ Companion Animal Register by submitting to local councils when their bylaws are due for review. Read on for a summary of which areas have implemented these bylaws.

Enjoy those extra hours of daylight with your furry companions.

Noho ora mai,

Dr. Sarah Olson, Welfare Manager



In this issue: [Shelter Register Aotearoa](#), [free webinars](#), [Animal Behaviour & Training Accreditation programme](#), and [council bylaws](#).



Shelter Register Aotearoa



Companion Animals NZ, in collaboration with the SPCA and MPI, facilitated a series of workshops with shelter organisations in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch, in 2020. The idea of a Shelter Register was proposed and there was strong agreement that this would be invaluable for providing transparency and facilitating standards around an unregulated industry.

In June 2022, Companion Animals NZ, launched a pilot programme called Shelter Register Aotearoa, an initiative to capture standardised data around the number of cats and dogs moving through animal rescues and shelters in New Zealand. The purpose of the database is to quantify the size of the problem in the industry and understand the associated welfare issues, so action can be taken to improve the situation.

Four main metrics are collected monthly and quarterly results reported. We anonymise the data so no one shelter is identifiable.

The Metrics Include:

- ✓ Species/Age
- ✓ Incoming live animals (stray, surrendered, transferred, born in shelter)
- ✓ Outgoing live animals (adopted, returned to owner, transferred)
- ✓ Other Outcomes (died in care, euthanased)

Number of animals desexed is also recorded.

In addition to being able to assess the scale and nature of the shelter industry, this information will provide many benefits, including the ability to:

- Monitor trends over time,
- Identify gaps in service provision,
- Provide opportunities to collaborate and access resources,
- Provide a support community for shelter staff and volunteers,
- Improve shelter management systems

This will provide:

- Better outcomes for animals currently in the shelters,
- Data that may help direct policies to improve outcomes for companion animals in the future, and
- Regular reporting to the public may help normalise beneficial actions such as desexing and microchipping.

We are now looking to secure funding to house the database on the New Zealand Companion Animal Register, and once established, capture data for other companion animals such as rabbits, horses, birds, etc.

The pilot has been running for four months, with 34 shelters and rescues taking part and capturing data. We need more shelters to take part in this initiative to provide a better picture of the current situation, in order to affect change in the future. Shelters working with cats and dogs can join at any time.

For more information, see the website, or email saraho@companionanimals.nz

Shelter Register Aotearoa



Free Webinars

To help support those in the shelter industry

To help support those in the shelter industry, we are running a series of free shelter webinars. Carolyn Press-McKenzie, founder and CEO of HUHA, kicked off the series with a heartfelt account of her journey establishing New Zealand's largest animal shelter and her learnings along the way. You can watch the recording of this on the website.

All Webinars

If you are interested in watching the other webinars coming up you can register on the website at no cost.

Keep an eye out for more shelter-related webinars happening next year, as well as another webinar series on 'A Good Life' for Companion Animals.

Upcoming Webinars



Shelter Register Aotearoa

Compassion Fatigue

Dr Rebekah Scotney
School of Veterinary Sciences, University of Queensland

WEBINAR DETAILS
Thursday 27th October 7.00pm
FREE to attend via Zoom

Shelter Register Aotearoa is an initiative of the **Companion Animals NZ REGISTER**



Shelter Register Aotearoa

Dog Behaviour and Handling in the Shelter Environment

Dr Jess Beer
BVSc MANZCVS, Founder Kiwi Vet Behaviour

WEBINAR DETAILS
Wednesday 23rd November 7.30pm
FREE to attend via Zoom

Shelter Register Aotearoa is an initiative of the **Companion Animals NZ REGISTER**

Animal Behaviour & Training Accreditation Programme

New organisations and member introductions



Exciting news for our Animal Training and Behaviour Accreditation Program - We have some new organisations and new members!

The **International Association of Animal Behaviour Consultants (IAABC)** renewed their accreditation for their Certified Dog Behaviour Consultants (CDBC) under the CANZ Animal Behaviour Consultant Standard. They also have a new Dog Trainer Accreditation (ADT) and have gained accreditation under the Animal Training Instructor (ATI) Standard. That means, any IAABC-ADT Members are eligible for CANZ-ATI. Congratulations to those new members who joined us this month:



MARIA ALOMAJAN

IAABC-ADT, CDBC, CANZ-ABC



NICOLE MARSTON

DIPVN, IAABC-ADT



CATHI NAPP

IAABC-ADT, CTDI



ANZCVS

In addition, the **Australian and New Zealand College of Veterinary Science (ANZCVS) - Behaviour Chapter** has also gained accreditation for the CANZ Behaviour Veterinarian (CANZ-BV) Standard. Members who have gone through the extensive assessment to become ANZCVS - Behaviour Chapter Members are now also eligible for CANZ-BV. This is brand new and so far we have 3 new members:



DR. JESS BEER

BVSC, MANZCVS



DR. LUCY SCOTT

BVSC, MANZCVS



DR. RHEA HURLEY

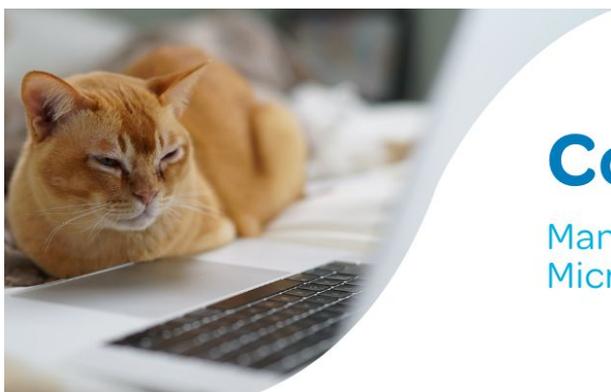
BSC, BVSC, MANZCVS

Congratulations to all and welcome to Companion Animals NZ!

We have also completed a review of our Accreditation scheme. This included surveying NZ Trainers and Behaviour Consultants. [The majority of responding professionals were enthusiastic about having a scheme and we have resolved to continue with our model.](#) Thanks all you your who provided feedback. We will work on:

- Simplifying our website
- Marketing to animal guardians
- Marketing to trainers
- Adding new standards where appropriate

Keep an eye on our website as we rollout exciting changes!



Council Bylaws

Mandatory Desexing,
Microchipping, Registration

The table shows areas that currently require mandatory desexing and microchipping/registration of cats.

Areas That Currently Require Mandatory Desexing and Microchipping/Registration of Cats

Council	Mandatory Desexing	Mandatory Microchipping & Registration on NZCAR	Date implemented
Palmerston North City Council	Yes	Yes	2018
Wellington City Council	No	Yes	2018
Whanganui District Council	Yes	Yes	2021
Whangarei District Council	Yes	Yes	July 2022
Selwyn District Council	No	Yes	July 2022
Ruapehu District Council	Yes	Yes	From 1/12/22

We are currently also submitting to the Buller District Council.

Data from the NZCAR suggests there is an increase in microchipping and registration following implementation of these bylaws, despite lack of enforcement, which is great to see. It is our hope that desexing and microchipping will become more normalised as more councils adopt these requirements.



Companion Animals NZ Welfare Update - Spring edition



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