



Paws-pectives

Get ready for summer holidays!

Whether you're heading off on a big adventure, or hosting at home, we have everything you need to make this holiday season safe, fun and relaxing for your pets!

2026 Petfirst calendar available now!

Meet this cool crew, more fur friends PLUS year-round savings.

Get your FREE copy in-clinic now!



Cover photo: Flo, Jacobi, Me!, Y! & Twink, by Amelia



Pawfect pressies for pets & pet parents



12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS FUN FOR YOUR FUR FRIEND

BE IN TO
WIN!

one of THREE Christmas goodie hampers for your pet!

Get your 2026 Petfirst Calendar, in-clinic NOW!



Our popular Petfirst veterinary calendar has arrived in-clinic so head in and grab your **FREE** copy.

This year, you'll love your calendar even more - check in every month for special offers and treats for you and your fur friend.

Available from your local Petfirst clinic while stocks last.



Pssst!

Hungry for a pawsome deal?

Black Furdary is coming! Follow us on Facebook to grab grrreat offers.



Meet Sarah

I'm Sarah! I am a nurse based in the Te Kuiti clinic and have also spent a fair amount of time in our Te Awamutu and Otorohanga Petfirst clinics. Our team is committed to providing personalised care to help accommodate each pet and their families, for example, dimming the lights when a reactive dog comes into the clinic, and placing a Feliway towel over a cat's carrier to help with over stimulation. We also work within pet parent's limitations and ensuring they feel understood to be a champion of their pet's health.

My special interest within veterinary medicine is animal behaviour and how they communicate - I enjoy educating pet parents on these topics to expand the relationship between pets and their parents. The more they understand, the sooner pets can be helped.

I love the 4cyte products. I started my 7-year-old cat Sarge, on this 3 months ago as a preventative measure as he is a very active outdoorsy boy. 4cyte is a nutraceutical so it is great for long term use and can be used alongside pharmaceuticals for a holistic approach. The active ingredient Epiitalis helps reduce inflammation and maintain healthy joints.





Let's get ready for holiday fun

Summer holiday prep to keep your fur friend safe and healthy

The upcoming holiday season is all about joy, family and togetherness. And, if you're anything like us, your fur family will be a huge part of that. Whether you're travelling, hosting guests or booking a holiday for your pet, a little preparation will help everyone enjoy a safe and happy festive season.

The festive season brings sparkle and excitement, but also a few hidden hazards. Keep your fur friend safe by watching out for:

- Christmas treats containing chocolate, grapes, raisins, nuts and onions that are toxic to your pets.
- Christmas decorations and tinsel that may look fun to chew on but will be risky to swallow.
- Candles and fairy lights that could pose burn or electrical hazards.
- New visitors, goings on and noises creating anxiety for some pets.

Talk to us about ways that you can support your fur friend to stay as happy and relaxed as the rest of the family.

Luxury holidays for pampered pooches and pussycats. If you're heading away (and can't take them with you), make sure you book your pet's holiday care early. Most kennels, catteries and pet sitting service fill up fast in December and January! In addition to booking in advance...

- Check their vaccination records to make sure they're up to date to avoid last minute panic. Schedule a pre-holiday health check and make sure you have good supplies of any regular medications.
- Pack familiar food, toys and bedding to help your pet feel at home.
- Share your emergency contact and Petfirst Veterinary details with your caregiver. Don't forget that we have interactive [Symptom Checker](#) and [Poison Guide](#) available 24/7 at mypetfirst.co.nz.

“Consistency is key to a happy holiday for your fur friend. Let your kennel or cattery know what they eat at home, when, and any special instructions and don't forget a comfort item - or even one of your old t-shirts to help your pet settle in quickly and feel safe.”

Hit the road! More and more accommodation providers are pet-friendly, so if your pet is heading out on holiday with you - or just coming along for a day trip, create the right memories by...

- Using a secure carrier, harness or crate - safety first! Your Petfirst Veterinary team can help you select the right solution for your fur friend.
- Stop for water, walk and toilet breaks every couple of hours. Never leave pets in a parked car, even for a short time.
- Bring their usual food, water bowl, toys and bedding so they enjoy their trip as much as you do.
- Make sure their microchip details are up to date at animalregister.co.nz so that if they decide to do a bit of extra exploring you can be reunited.

From our Petfirst family to yours, we wish you a joyful and safe holiday season filled with wagging tails, gentle purrs and plenty of cuddles!

Perfect Paws

“ At Petfirst, even a simple nail clip is an opportunity to create a calm, caring experience for your fur friend. Our team uses gentle “Fear-Free” handling – with treats, cuddles, and soothing tones – so every visit builds confidence, not anxiety.

By pairing nail clips with play, praise, and positive reinforcement, we help pets associate grooming with comfort and care. But when we push past a pet’s comfort zone, we undo that trust – and have to rebuild those positive associations from the beginning. That’s why we always go at their pace, making each experience as calm, kind, and confidence-building as possible.

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- 1** **Use the right tools.** Sharp pet nail clippers designed for your pet’s size will make the process smooth and safe. Ask your Petfirst team for a personal recommendation.
- 2** **Start slow and calm.** Choose a quiet time and a relaxed spot. Let your pet sniff the clippers first, turning curiosity into confidence.
- 3** **Get familiar with the quick.** The pink area inside the nail (the quick) is full of nerves. It’s easy to see if your pet has light nails, for black nails, take tiny slivers, and stop when you see a pale grey circle in the centre.
- 4** **Tiny trims, often.** It’s better to clip a small amount every couple of weeks than wait for a big trim. The job will be easier and your pet will remember the process, coming to understand that it’s no big deal.
- 5** **Teamwork makes the dream work.** Some pets feel braver with a helper who can gently hold them during their trim – or distract them with treats! Reward your pet with cuddles or a favourite treat after every clip so they look forward to the next.
- 6** **Pause for paws.** Take the time to check their feet, cleaning dirt between pads and – particularly in summer, checking for grass seeds or irritated pads.

Petfirst Wellness members get 4 free nail clips every year plus other savings and much more!

For more information and terms, visit petfirstwellness.co.nz

Keeping nails short helps your fur friend move freely and comfortably – it’s a small act of care with a big impact on their wellbeing.

Need more help?

Ask your Petfirst Veterinary team next time you’re in-clinic, or book a nail trim appointment at mypetfirst.co.nz

12 days of Christmas fun FOR YOUR FUR FRIEND

Celebrate the season with your best friend with 12 days of festive fun for you and your fur friend!



1 Kick off the fun with a Christmas-themed chew or toy.



7 Bathe or gently groom your fur friend so they look their best when visitors arrive. If they're a little nervous, ask your Petfirst team about Adaptil or Feliway.



2 Get into the Christmas spirit with a cosy night in watching Christmas movies with your best fur friend.



8 Make paw-print Christmas cards with pet-safe paint. Make sure you have wipes on hand for the cleanup!



3 Set up a festive pup or kitten play date or gift exchange at home or at a local dog park.



9 Set up a festive photo shoot for your fur friend at home or visit a pet-friendly Santa event. We'd love to see your photos!



4 Create a Christmas fort to provide new places to explore (and distract from the Christmas tree). Hide small treats for your fur friend to find.



10 Bake pet-friendly snacks (or pick some up in-clinic). Treat your fur friend with these rather than your own Christmas food (that may be bad for them or even toxic).



5 Teach a new trick (or two!) to impress visitors - and Santa Claws!



11 Give back by dropping food, toys or old blankets and towels to your local SPCA or animal shelter.



6 Treat them to a bright new collar and tag - at the same time, check your pet's microchip details at animalregister.co.nz



12 Wrap up a special gift or load up a stocking for your fur friend. Dogs love ripping paper as much as we do so loosely wrap their gift for extra fun.

Grrrrreat gifts FOR PETS & PET LOVERS



1 Trouble & Trix cat toys and collar | 2 Beko dog toy | 3 Yours Droolly treats with free Santa Dog toy | 4 Pet bed | 6 Creature mugs (from Farmers stores)



Win!

Thanks to our besties at Masterpet, we have 3 Christmas hampers to give away, full of treats for your fur friend valued at \$250!

Head to the pinned post on our Facebook page and leave a photo of your fur friend to be in to win!

Closes 14/12/25, winners notified on Facebook 15/12/2025.

Next time...
 Look out for your next **Petfirst Paws-pectives** in February 2026!
 Do you have a burning question or topic suggestion? Email feedback and ideas to us at hello@mypetfirst.co.nz

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