

Dear Clients,

At Waikato Equine Veterinary Centre we are constantly striving to maintain and improve client service and facilities to keep pace with demand and expectations. We are well into building the extension to our stabling block, isolation facility and additional treatment rooms and upgrading the layout of our yarding system. We have also welcomed some new vets to our team. I would like to take this opportunity to introduce you to the three new vets we are excited to have join us.



Dr Chris Beggan

We are honoured to have a residency program approved by the European College of Veterinary Surgeons (ECVS) in conjunction with Massey University. A surgical resident is an experienced veterinarian that is seeking to gain the requisite experience and skills to gain specialist qualifications as a surgical diplomate. Both Dr Greg Quinn and Dr Laurinda Oliver at the clinic are surgical diplomates. Dr Chris Beggan starts his 3-year program with us as a surgical resident. He will spend a portion of the year at WEVC and a portion at Massey University.

Chris, originally from Ireland, completed his veterinary qualifications at the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies - University of Edinburgh. After graduating, he has worked in practice in UK and in NZ doing first opinion equine work, stud work and some surgery. Chris moved back to the UK in 2020 where he continued to work in equine practice in England and then returning to the University of Edinburgh to work as a clinician in their hospital and a lecturer in equine practice. Chris is in the process of finalising his Advanced Practitioners Certificate focusing on soft tissue surgery.



Dr Alicia Howell

Dr Alicia Howell grew up in London UK and then went to the University of Nottingham. After graduating, she came to New Zealand for the first time and completed an internship at Massey University. She stayed on for a subsequent foaling season before returning to the UK to work at a busy practice in the north of England for three years. She decided to relocate permanently to New Zealand, with her partner Chris, and join us at Waikato Equine. Alicia's areas of interest are lameness, reproduction and medicine / neonatal care and she is currently working towards an Advanced Certificate in Equine Medicine.



In their spare time Chris and Alicia enjoy hiking and exploring all parts of New Zealand. Chris has also been heavily involved coaching women's rugby in both Wales and Scotland and Alicia enjoys riding, swimming and trail running.

Dr Georgina Johnston

Dr Georgie Johnson joined us in March 2022 and many of you will have met her already in the intervening period. Georgie graduated from the Royal Veterinary College in London before completing an internship at Randwick Equine Veterinary Centre in Sydney. She spent 2 years in an equine first opinion practice and then joined the University of Queensland Equine Specialist Hospital for 5 years. Here she completed an honours thesis and doctoral thesis and undertook intensive specialist training in Equine Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation during which time she worked with world renowned Sports Medicine and Imaging Specialists both in Australia and the USA. This culminated in her passing her Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation (ACVSMR) which represents the highest level of post-graduate veterinary qualification in this field and moving to New Zealand to start with Waikato Equine Veterinary Centre.

Georgie has experience across both sporthorse equestrian sports and thoroughbred racing and strong interests in cardiology and poor performance investigation, particularly the diagnosis and rehabilitation of musculoskeletal injuries. Georgie is an FEI Permitted Treating Vet and an FEI Official Vet for eventing. She has also been a course vet for the Mongol and Gaucho Derbies since 2018. Outside of work Georgie enjoys exploring with her dogs, skydiving and skiing.



We are privileged to have such quality veterinarians join our team and they are all looking forward to getting to know you.

With the breeding season kicking off we are delighted that Dr Murray Bertram is returning on the 5th October to assist us during this busy time.

We have additionally commenced an internship program at Waikato Equine Veterinary Centre. Interns are veterinarians who are in the early stage of their careers and looking to expand their knowledge and expertise in an intensive program - learning under the oversight of experienced clinicians while working hard to enhance the general care of our patients. Dr Megan Baines, Dr Charlotte Miller, Dr Lucy BurrIDGE are graduates from the UK and NZ respectively. Alona Parfonova many of you will know already having worked as one of our senior nurses for many years. Alona is in the final stages of completing her veterinary papers for registration with the New Zealand Veterinary Council. We will be supporting them in continuing their veterinary experience and development.

Lastly, I would like to let you know that I will be stepping into the role of "Clinic Co-ordinator" covering the duties of our Practice Manager Gen Sadgrove while she is on maternity leave.

We wish all our clients all the very best with their sporthorse, breeding and racing endeavours. We aim to continue providing the best service possible to you and your horses!!

Kind Regards,

Becs Tucker
Waikato Equine Veterinary Centre