

A Day in the Life of a New Grad at Aorangi Vets

Every new grad's day is different, but here's a look at what a typical day might look like...

8:00 – Arrive at work ready for the day!

Check your Vision calendar (our scheduling system) to find out what you're up to.

Mornings

Generally for the first part of the day you'll either be doing surgery in smallies, consultations, on-hold for large animal jobs, or perhaps you'll be spending the day in one of the other clinics (Geraldine, Fairlie or Highfield, Timaru).

Small Animal Surgery

- Patients start arriving from 8–8:30am. They are admitted by a nurse, and health checked by the surgery vet.
- Anaesthetic protocols are planned out, the first patient is pre-medicated and the surgery day begins.
- At the start, there will be another vet available to support you as much as you need – whether that's scrubbing in with you, standing in theatre or in the next room. You get to lead with how much support you need.
- Routine procedures like speys, neuters, dentals and lump removals are common. We also have vets with an interest in orthopaedics, who often like an extra hand to scrub in and help hold or close up. This is a great opportunity to pick up surgical skills and follow along the patients' rehabilitation.

Small Animal Consults

- We see a range of things come through our small animal clinic. Vaccinations, health checks and ear infections of course, but also medical cases (hyperthyroid cats, diabetic dogs etc), trauma and emergencies that come in throughout the day.

- When you start as a new grad, we book 30 minute slots for appointments, with 15 minute gaps between so you have plenty of time to write notes and prepare. Once you're comfortable, we shorten those to 15 minutes, but always make sure to leave gaps in case you run overtime or need help.
- We try to always have another vet at the clinic, as well as designated "small animal supports" who may not be in the clinic but are only a phone call away and happy to discuss cases with you and give advice.

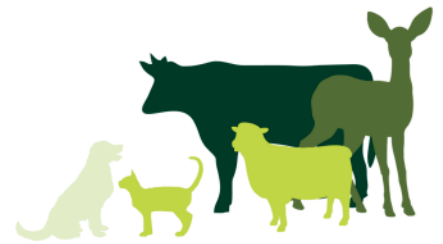
*Our clients are lovely!
They're more than happy
for you to step out and get
advice, or bring another vet
in for a second opinion.*

Large Animal

- This can be ANYTHING.
- There are many seasonal routine jobs: scanning, teat-sealing, dry-cow treatment, metricuring, body-condition scoring and disbudding. Many of these are a lot of fun as you head out with a great team of vets and techs, and it's a great way to get to know the farmers and farms that we work with. These days are fun, highly team-oriented, and a fantastic way to build technical skills fast.
- Along with routine jobs, there's always sick animal calls – cancer eyes, scouring calves, post-mortems, and of course calvings.

Afternoons

After your relaxing lunch break, we head into the afternoon. Often things get interesting here as cases have come in through the day.



***"You get to decide
how much support
you want - whether
that's someone
scrubbed in beside
you or just nearby."***

- You might find yourself in smallies surgery taking x-rays of a hit-by-car dog or stitching up a pig-dog rip. There may be in-patients to run bloods on and sort hospital plans for.
- Routine consults and farm-animal calls are other tasks going on in the afternoon as well.

5:00 – done for the day!

We try to get out of work on time, although of course sometimes cases run a little over. We all really like each other here; we have a work netball team in the summer comp and on Thursdays head to the local pub for a drink and after work chats.

After Hours

Once you've been working for a few months, you will start on the on-call roster. We always make sure there is a backup person for you and you can choose whether you want to hold the phone or just follow the experienced vet for the night / weekend. As you get more confident, the back-up person is a phone-call away. Even once you don't have a designated back-up anymore, there are always people around and happy to help – you can always phone a friend at AVS!

Every day looks a little different, but one thing is constant: you'll be supported, encouraged, and part of a team that genuinely wants you to thrive.