



Emerging Small and Medium Business Award – Judges Commendation

Tasman Bay Vets



Tasman Bay Vet owner Paula Short and one of her 'clients'

Background:

For the past four years Dr Paula Short has owned and operated Tasman Bay Veterinary Clinics in Motueka and Mapua. She had always been environmentally aware at home, but her epiphany came about 18 months ago when she watched Al Gore's "very, very powerful" climate change documentary *An Inconvenient Truth*.

"It took a while for the penny to drop that the same things I'm doing at home could be directly applicable in my business," says Paula.





The clinics also sell pet products and supplies, and the company focuses on educating customers as well as curing their pets. Tasman Bay Vets are increasingly stocking pet products made from organic, natural and renewable resources.

The challenge:

Sees the impact that both pets and farm animals are having on the environment and the opportunity to begin to mitigate this.

Some responses:

- Developing preventative animal health care programmes
- Enhancing staff health and safety by using only isoflurane anaesthetic and installing an active scavenging scheme for waste gases
- Buying New Zealand made natural and organic pet products for resale where possible
- Minimising their waste stream where possible
- Actively encouraging suppliers to provide “green” products
- Ensuring a new building made the most of natural light and heat
- Communicating their activities to the wider veterinary community

Judges comments from the National awards:

- The Judges were impressed by a range of great initiatives in a sector that doesn't traditionally focus on sustainability
- The company is providing leadership in the veterinary sector with an excellent model that helps create a movement in this sector.

Judges comments from the SBN Southern regional awards:

- Tasman Bay Vets demonstrate a total commitment to pursuing a sustainable business model and have achieved great results in their efforts to date
- With no other nearby veterinary practice to garner ideas from, Tasman Bay Vets took the resources supplied in the Get Sustainable Challenge and expanded upon them for their own unique situation (e.g. reducing anaesthetic gas waste)
- Tasman Bay Vets created a model that can now be applied to other practices wanting to change and are a role model for their sector.

