



Dr Jessica Walker

Manager

New Zealand Companion Animal Council

Jessica graduated from the University of Queensland where she completed a PhD investigating animals' emotional experiences of grief. Prior to this she completed an MSc in Applied Animal Behaviour and Welfare, during which she conducted research into a novel method of welfare assessment for shelter-housed dogs.

Jessica's interest in companion animal welfare, in particular meeting their emotional needs, led her into her role as Manager of the New Zealand Companion Animal Council.

Abstract

Using technology to reunite lost pets with their families – a three-fold approach

The New Zealand Companion Animal Council (NZCAC) established the New Zealand Companion Animal Register (NZCAR) in 2007 to provide a national database for the recording of microchip numbers and associated owner details. With over 500,000 animals, including dogs, cats, rabbits, birds, reptiles and more, NZCAR is the leading microchip registry and recovery system in New Zealand.

This year the NZCAC will bring facial recognition technology, PiP, to New Zealand. PiP, developed in Canada, allows users to upload pictures of found pets which are analysed and matched with photos of pets identified as lost. In addition the NZCAC is collaborating on the development of an improved user interface for New Zealand's largest pet lost and found website, Pets On The Net. This talk will provide an overview of how this three-fold approach helps to re-unite lost pets with their family and keep them home.