



## The Making of a Vet

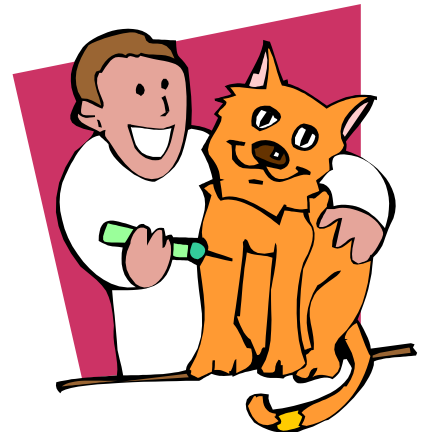
Written by Damon Leeder (veterinary intern)

The path to becoming a vet is a long but rewarding one. The most difficult step is securing a place at one of Australia's six veterinary schools. Each year the number of applicants far exceeds the places on offer, so competition is fierce. In fact, recent school leavers require a UAI of greater than 98 to stand a chance. Those applicants wanting to transfer to Veterinary Science from another university degree are selected based on their grade point average, their performance in a number of written examinations and a demonstrated commitment to veterinary science. Successful applicants begin an intensive and difficult course. The first couple of years are preclinical,

where vet students study the fundamental sciences. If they successfully pass these years, students begin their clinical training. Here they must master all aspects of veterinary science, including medicine, surgery, radiology and anaesthesia. They must do this not only for dogs and cats, but also for cattle, sheep, pigs, horses, birds, rabbits and even fish! The vast knowledge required to be a vet means that vet students spend a long time at university and a long time learning.

After university, vet students begin a year of internship in which they work at veterinary clinics under the supervision of experienced veterinarians and nurses. This allows students to develop skills and experience in a hospi-

tal set up. Upon completion of their internship, students graduate and become fully qualified vets. But the learning does not stop here! Ever-changing treatment modalities and technologies require that veterinarians undertake continuing education every year, attending conferences and information seminars to ensure that they can deliver the best treatment for your pets.



## Thomas' tails

Well they've done it again. Every 3 months they stick a tablet down my throat. They say it's so I don't get worms. How could a cat as clean as me possibly get worms! Well, I guess they know what they're doing. Thankfully they are now following the worming tablet with a syringe full of delicious tap water. Apparently recent studies have identified cats with oesophageal problems caused by tablets and capsules and so it is now recommended that any of us cats who receive a tablet or capsule of any description should immediately receive a bolus of 5ml of water or have it with food. Well I guess it's quite logical really, most people take their tablets with a glass of water— good luck getting me or any of my cat friends to drink anything. I quite enjoy having the water slowly syringed into the corner of my mouth with a 5ml syringe.

For those of you that have difficulty giving us tablets there are many options available these days. Many of the medications that are dispensed come in a paste or liquid form, and there are topical worming preparations which totally



eliminate the need for giving worming by mouth. Ask our staff about Profender® "the new stress free-worming for cats". There are also special tools available for giving tablets. If you are having trouble medicating your feline friend come in and discuss it with my staff. They know all the tricks and will find some way of getting around the problem.



## Current Flea Epidemic

Are you experiencing a high number of fleas on your pet at the moment? Well you're not alone. Most animals (90%) we have had visit us in the last couple of months have had fleas and the majority of these have had major flea infestations. What's more, many of these animals have had regular flea control such as Frontline Plus® or Advantix® (dogs only) or Revolution® applied monthly. So why is this happening?

Because we have been in drought for so long there has been no humidity. In order for flea eggs to develop they need both warmth and humidity. The eggs have survived the long dry and have been able to slowly build up over the last couple of years, waiting dormant. Now that we have rain and humidity they have been able to develop into larvae and adult fleas in large numbers. What we are seeing now is a consequence of the environmental conditions.

So what should I do? Continue to apply Frontline Plus® or Advantix® (dogs only) or Revolution® and apply it every 2 weeks rather than monthly. You may in addition also wish to give some Capstar® tablets. They provide a rapid kill of the fleas on the animal but only have a short duration of action so make sure you continue to use topical treatment in combination.

It generally takes about 3 months to see a reduction in the environmental flea population, This can be sped up by treating the environment with flea bombs or Coopex® in the yard. Avoid bathing your pet too frequently as that washes the flea control off and remember to treat all the dogs and cats in the household.

Confused about all these products and don't know what to use? We would be happy to help. Our nurses know the available products and can help make the best choice for your situation. Call in and see us, we know the products that are available, how safe they are, when they can be used, and can work out what you need in your situation. This service is provided free of charge.



Our newsletter is now available in electronic format and can be accessed on our web page. The current newsletter has been emailed to all clients who have a valid email address recorded with us, rather than the paper version. If we do not have your email address and you would prefer to save some paper please give us a call or submit our [online form](#) available on our website ([www.crownvet.com.au](http://www.crownvet.com.au)) so we can add your e-mail address to our computer system.

## Staff pet profile: Matt's dog Tamara

**Breed:** Dalmatian

**Age:** 11 years old

**Favourite activities:** Chasing a Kong toy, going to bed early and snuggling up on a bean bag, running off leash, playing with the other dogs, eating.

**Bad habits:** When the opportunity comes running away from Matt, eating poo, eating Matt's mother in-law's budgie, licking.

Tamara is a loyal friend and doesn't have a bad bone in her body. Her and Harry (one of the cats) are great friends and Tamara does whatever Harry tells her to do, eg. 'Get off that bean bag it's mine'. She is great with the kids and with all the other animals we have. She is starting to get a bit stiff now with arthritis and has a thunderstorm phobia which is getting worse with age, but apart from that she has been a very healthy dog throughout her life.

