

Hi. I'm Emi, and I'm a veterinary surgeon. I've been qualified since 2009 and have worked in small animal practice in the UK since 2010. I've treated an interesting variety of animals and a vast range of problems over the years. I've got interests in internal medicine, particularly feline medicine, and endocrinology (the study of hormones and diseases related to these systems), as well as exotic pets. Another major part of my career has been teaching. I've been a clinical coach for several student veterinary nurses and seen them through their journey to become Registered Veterinary Nurses (RVNs). I've also spent a lot of time with veterinary students and with school students who want to ~~become vets or vet nurses~~. I'm quite well known at work for having some very obscure facts in my brain to pull out if vaguely relevant to what's going on!

I've also done some charity work during my time in practice, I've even been on TV once! I've also done a couple of days as a 'vet on set' during filming of an advert, where a vet needs to be present if a live animal is involved in the filming. I've done out of hours work, being 'on-call'. I've had to go to minor injuries twice due to work related incidents and have a nice collection of scars. I've seen some weird things, some horrible things, and some amazing things.

So why am I starting this blog? Recently the physical aspects of being a vet have begun to take their toll on my health. I suffer from chronic back pain and an immune-mediated polyarthropathy. So, I've been looking for other ways I can make use of my knowledge and experiences to help animals and animal-owning people. One of my biggest passions is writing, and I've enjoyed writing a variety of things, fictional and non-fictional, over the years. I love teaching as well, and I'm pretty good at it, or so I've been told!

What can you expect from this blog? Lots of information, discussions, and opinions on veterinary and animal-related issues. Some fun and weird facts. Some serious posts about serious issues as well. I have an interest in conservation. There are issues facing us all, and a veterinary perspective on these can be invaluable. I also want to raise awareness of mental health problems in general, and particularly within my profession. Stress, burnout, and mental health issues are high in the veterinary industry and vets are 3-4 times more likely than the average member of the public to commit suicide. There are organisations who are working on this, including the RCVS's Mind Matters Initiative, Vetlife here in the UK, and Not One More Vet (NOMV) internationally. I have in the past, and still do, struggle with anxiety and depression. I don't believe in keeping silent about it or trying to hide it. We need to talk about it if we're ever going to improve things.

That said, I promise there will be light-hearted posts as well, and hopefully lots of cute photographs and videos to accompany the posts. Please do note, however, that specific medical advice will not be given in the comments, I cannot give specific advice for a patient that is not under my care, i.e., registered at the practice I am working at. So please, don't ask in the comments. If you need advice, particularly if

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it is urgent, please contact your local vet as they will be much better able to help you.

Thanks for reading so far, and I hope you will find my posts interesting and useful. If you do enjoy reading, please do share my [blog](#), and feel free to comment.