



WHO ARE THE WOMEN INVOLVED IN STEM?



Kat Duncan

Locum veterinary surgeon



PROFESSIONAL

Top-level responsibilities

As a vet, I advise owners on the best way to care for pets or farm animals. I diagnose and treat disease, and I perform routine and emergency surgeries.

Day-to-day work and skills

Every day is different! I examine animals, collect blood samples, read test results, perform ultrasounds, interpret x-rays and prescribe medications. Communication is also very important, and I often have to work with clients who become emotional when their animal is unwell.

WHAT I WANTED TO BE WHEN I GREW UP

To work with animals, to be intellectually challenged, to travel a lot and to help people. Veterinary Medicine has been a fantastic way to combine all my greatest interests!

I grew up in rural Australia and as a teenager volunteered at local animal shelters.

I studied a Bachelor of Science at University, then completed the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine course as a post-graduate degree.

PERSONAL

Current location and community

I live in rural Australia now, but in the past few years my job has allowed me to live all over the world – in Scotland, Ireland, Sweden, Sri Lanka and Ecuador.

My interests and hobbies

I love being outdoors and exploring new places. My hobbies include writing, learning languages, photography, crochet, and anything involving animals.

I am passionate about

Encouraging others to volunteer – there are a lot of animal charities that need help, and you'll gain a lot by getting involved in your community!

What I would say to 16-year-old me

Don't be afraid to push yourself out of your comfort zone – take challenges, meet people and volunteer. You'll get a lot out of life if you do the things that scare you!

Now I work as a locum vet, travelling to work at different clinics around Australia and the UK as I'm needed.

I gained experience working as a vet with pets, farm animals and exotic species for 2 years.

I also use my skills to volunteer at charity clinics in foreign countries – it's a great way to help animals and experience new cultures while working with local people.