

A SCIENTIST just like me



Dr Kelly Blacklock
Veterinary surgeon

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Hi there! I am Dr Kelly Blacklock – A veterinary surgeon



Where do I work?

I work in the Vet School's Hospital for Small Animals at the University of Edinburgh. I am a surgeon for the poorly dogs and cats we see from across Scotland and the North of England.

What did I like doing when I was at school?

I really liked biology. I love to see how the body works. It's interesting that the biology of humans and animals are really similar!

What do I like doing in my spare time?

I like to cook, do some gardening, and play with my children, who are five and two. We also have a cat, called Blackberry.

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What do I do as a veterinary surgeon?

I operate on dogs and cats who require treatment. My job is really varied from day to day, which I enjoy. One day I might be operating on a dog's lung and the next day I might be looking after a wound on a cat's leg. I also teach our veterinary students how to do surgery.



How does what I do make the world a better place?

I ensure that sick pets receive the treatment they need to cure or improve their condition. Because the biology of animals and humans is very similar, lots of treatments given to pets are first used in human medicine. Much of what I learn, can be used in human medicine, which forms part of my research.

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What I like about my job



I love that my job is so varied, and I get to work with a huge team of interesting people, including other vets, nurses, laboratory scientists, and lots of lovely pet owners. I am lucky to be able to help lots of pets to feel better and go home to their families!

Challenges I have faced

Being a vet is a fantastic job, but you must do lots of learning and studying. There are a lot of things we need to know and the only way to learn it all is to read, read, read! This can be tiring, but the rewards of your hard work can be huge! It's sad to see poorly pets, but it always makes me smile when they return home after their treatment.

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If you want to be a veterinary surgeon, you need:

- ✱ to have a **love of animals and nature**
- ✱ to have an **interest in biology**
- ✱ to be **prepared to work hard**, especially in training when you might need to go and treat an animal in the middle of the night!
- ✱ not worry about **getting dirty!**



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Discussion time

- ✦ Would you like to be a veterinary surgeon like Dr Kelly Blacklock?

Why? Why not?



- ✦ What skills and interests do you already have that would help you become a veterinary surgeon?
- ✦ What new skills and knowledge would you need to develop?

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Free supporting resources for veterinary science

[Science for One](#) – see 'Foil' for children aged 5-7, 'Playdough' for children aged 9-11.

[I bet you didn't know...](#) articles use cutting-edge science research as a context for learning. Teacher Guides describing the research and activities and investigations for children can be used as classroom presentations. See:

- Some mammals have unusual backbones
- Slug slime might be the answer for medical adhesives

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