

A scientist just like me



Navaratnam Partheeban
Clinical Farm Veterinary Surgeon

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Hi there! I am Navaratnam Partheeban – A clinical farm veterinary surgeon



Where do I work?

I work in a farm animal only clinical veterinary practice in Southeast England. We have seven practices together forming one big group of farms practices.

What did I like doing when I was at school?

I really enjoyed science. My favourite subjects were biology and chemistry. I also really enjoyed history.

What do I like doing in my spare time?

I love sport and follow Liverpool Football Club and the Mercedes Formula 1 Team. Rugby and Cricket are also sports that I follow.

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What do I do as a clinical farm veterinary surgeon?



I spend my time both preventing and treating illness and disease in farm animals. Emergency medicine is a large part of our work. I must drive to different farms to see these animals both during the day and night. Working with my farmers, I develop plans to stop disease and accidents.

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

Animals need to be looked after and treated with respect and care because we farm them for our food. Healthy animals means healthy food and so what I do is important, so that animals do not suffer.

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What I like about my job

My job is different from day to day. I don't know what animals I am going to see and for what reason. Talking to so many different farmers and livestock keepers means I am always learning and engaging with a diverse range of people. I am passionate about cows and sheep, and am lucky to see them everyday.



Challenges I have faced

I don't always know how to solve every problem that I see in the animals and so it's important I ask for help from my colleagues. It is also very tiring when it's a busy period like during spring, so I make sure I look after my rest and health to stay fit for work.

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If you want to be a clinical farm vet, you need:

- ✦ **to problem solve** - animals can't talk to you or describe what's wrong with them so being able to work out the cause of the problem is key
- ✦ **to do some strategic thinking** - a herd could be having a problem so how would you help the farmer reduce the impact
- ✦ **to set goals** - aiming to help the farmers improve the health of their herd
- ✦ **to research** - learning and trying new techniques and teaching others if they are successful



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Discussion time

- ✦ Would you like to be a clinical farm veterinary surgeon like Navaratnam Partheeban?

Why? Why not?

- ✦ What skills and interests do you already have that would help you become a Navratnam Partheeban?
- ✦ 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.

[UK Wildlife](#) – see 'Mammals' Skulls & Teeth' - resources to encourage children to think about the links between structures and function and how particular features of animals helps them survive.

[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:

- Why and How scientists measure mammals' whiskers
- Red squirrels adapt to the food they eat
- Some mammals have unusual backbones

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