

*A must read!!*



*Local upliftment*

*Vet skill shortage!*

*Female empowerment*

*Career opportunities*

These are positive sentiments, but can we also look at how we might turn them into something tangible and meaningful?

*Lydia Coutts*

President - Animals Vanuatu Association

read

**FULL NEWSLETTER**



# WHERE WE ARE NOW

In just 2.5 years, we have achieved remarkable success, achieved through dedicated leadership, volunteer vet professionals, and generous financial donations.

We have spoken before about important priorities — empowering locals, career opportunities, increasing access to veterinary services, providing more support for animals, and building a more sustainable organisation.

We cannot be sustainable if we continue to rely solely on volunteers. It is now time to appoint paid staff. This transition will not only strengthen our sustainability and capacity, but will also directly support many of our goals.

**Unless we all demonstrate a genuine commitment to turning these priorities into action, they risk becoming nothing more than catchphrases or virtue signalling!**

So earlier this year, in preparation for a full time vet, we appointed our first 3 day per week, trainee vet nurse, Jocelyn, who is making good progress and we can already see the enormous benefit of having an extra pair of compassionate hands!

## OUR FIRST TRAINEE VET NURSE



# NOW....AN OPPORTUNITY FOR A JUNIOR VET

Recently, we met a young ni-Vanuatu woman who had just completed a five-year Veterinary Science degree in Fiji.

Although we had originally budgeted for only one position (Jocelyn), it was immediately clear to us, that appointing a junior vet WHO WAS ON OUR DOORSTEP, would be one of the smartest decisions we could make.

It would have been a travesty to let such an opportunity pass us by. Here was an educated young veterinarian with skills that could make an immediate and meaningful contribution to our clinic, our animals and, ultimately, the wider community.

After a short induction, she enthusiastically put her hand up to join our volunteer veterinary team travelling to Epi. Still continuing to work alongside the veterinary team on the ground, we have received this report :

AVA has found a gem! Leina has demonstrated good knowledge, practical skills, a positive attitude, and a strong desire to learn. Linda, in particular, has worked closely with her, and we are both very happy to support her as mentors.

She has successfully completed over 35 desexing surgeries, and her surgical skills have progressed rapidly, particularly in her handling and use of instruments.

Dr Dave Hall BVSc   Dr Linda Bradbury BVSc





# SPONSORSHIP

We want to create pathways for ni-Vanuatu to use their education and skills, gain practical experience, build confidence, develop further expertise and ultimately take greater ownership of veterinary services in Vanuatu.



We are seeking a community or business leader who is willing to invest in our Junior Vet by sponsoring part or all of a 6 month period. A commitment of approximately VT 40,000 per month would provide the stability and support to continue this important work. She will be mentored by our soon to be appointed Australian sponsored vet surgeon. What an opportunity!



## SPONSORSHIP (CONT.)

This is more than a financial contribution—it is an opportunity to invest in animal welfare sustainability.

If we are **serious about local empowerment, upskilling, career development, increased veterinary capacity and better outcomes for animals**, then opportunities like this need to be embraced. AVA can move beyond relying solely on volunteers and begin building a sustainable, skilled and locally supported organisation for the future.



IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE PART OF THIS AMAZING INITIATIVE, WE WOULD LOVE TO MEET WITH YOU AND SHARE MORE ABOUT AVA'S JOURNEY.

AND lastly, a recent visitor to Vanuatu, Carolina, asked us to share her conversation with us, regarding animal welfare in our region - lets appreciate and support what we have here, it could change if not supported.





# LET'S APPRECIATE WHAT WE HAVE IN VANUATU

Dear Team

My name is Carolina. I recently had the opportunity to visit Vanuatu during a tour across Oceania. I would like to congratulate you on the extraordinary work you are doing.

After everything I had witnessed during our journey, Vanuatu gave me hope and inspired me to write to you.

In the Solomons, I experienced one of the most heartbreaking situations- So many dogs living in desperate conditions. Almost every one of them painfully thin, ribs clearly visible. Many suffering from mange, open wounds, and obvious infections. Flies constantly surrounded and landed on their injuries. It was impossible not to feel heartbroken.

I searched every local store for dog food, but with none available, I gave them dry bread, and they ate it with desperate hunger.

I saw nursing mother dogs so thin they could barely feed their puppies. I saw tiny puppies already suffering from mange & malnutrition. It felt like an endless cycle of suffering.

When I arrived in Vanuatu and came across one of your brochures, I immediately felt the need to write to you. Seeing the difference your organization has made here gave me hope that perhaps one day the dogs of Noro could have the same chance.

# LETS APPRECIATE WHT WE HAVE IN VANUATU

But the progress in Vanuatu is fragile. If the only dedicated animal welfare charity is forced to close because of insufficient community and government support, the consequences for animals would be profound. There would be no organisation with the capacity to continue the work, respond to cases of neglect and cruelty, provide essential veterinary assistance, educate communities, or advocate for better animal welfare.

Once animal welfare services disappear, rebuilding them would be enormously difficult.

We have an opportunity in Vanuatu to ensure that the progress made is not lost – but that requires meaningful and sustained support now.

