

**B B C** Worldwide

# Vets in Practice

## SERIES 2

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10 x 30 minutes

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**BBC** Worldwide

# Vets in Practice

## SERIES 2

Healing sick animals is a vocation

National Television Awards 1999  
Most Popular Documentary

Documentaries

10 x 30 minutes

**BBC** Worldwide

# Vets in Practice

## SERIES 2

### Introduction

*Vets in Practice*, a prime-time docusoap, first transmitted on BBC1 in 1997 and quickly became established as a firm favourite with viewers of all ages. Norwegian vet Trude Mostue and Steve Leonard (voted one of *Company* magazine's 50 most eligible bachelors) have become British celebrities.

The young vets first appeared in the BBC1's hugely successful *Vets' School*, which followed a group of students in the final year of their training. The first series followed the graduates' tentative steps into professional practice and this series eavesdrops on their progress several months on.

With a reasonable amount of experience now behind them, the young vets are getting restless. Trude Mostue makes a trip back to her native Norway, while golden couple Emma Milne and Joe Inglis both leave their practices. Will their new jobs push them apart? Alison Lee and her boyfriend, Craig, prepare for their grand wedding and Steve Leonard's youngest brother, Keith, joins the *Vets In Practice* fold as he, too, trains to be a vet. As they do their best to treat sick and injured animals, this fly-on-the-wall series has millions of British viewers hanging off the edge of their seats with its warmth, honesty and sometimes heart-stopping moments.

The young vets take on dramatic, tear-jerking but quite often hilarious animal cases while also dealing with the ups and downs of their personal lives. Their loves, their hates and the inevitable stresses and strains that go with the job are all captured on camera.

Documentaries

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**BBC** Worldwide

# Vets in Practice

## SERIES 2

### Production Credits

Narrator

**Christopher Timothy**

*(All Creatures Great And Small)*

Series Producer

**Nick Shearman**

Executive Producer

**Grant Mansfield**

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### The Vets

**Trude Mostue** became famous for her disastrous attempt to inject a kitten in *Vets' School*, as well as her difficulties over learning English. "When *Vets' School* was being filmed, there were times when I just wanted to give up and go back to Norway," she says. "But now I feel like staying in Britain for ever. I love the people, the animals and the countryside. Encouraged by the flood of fan mail from fans and their pets, Trude started her career at a practice in Bristol.

**Steve Leonard** works at a veterinary practice in Lancaster and has been voted one of the United Kingdom's "50 most eligible bachelors", courtesy of *Company* magazine. Steve has been inundated with fan mail from admiring ladies since his appearance on *Vets' School*, but is too engrossed in his first year of work to worry about girlfriends.

**Keith Leonard** is the youngest of the four veterinary brothers. He passed his final exams in the summer and is about to become a fully-qualified vet at a practice in Carmarthen, Wales.

**Emma Milne** and **Joe Inglis** graduated from Langford in the same year as the other vets, and because of their relationship, they have chosen neighbouring practices in the beautiful Devonshire countryside. Joe works at Bideford and Emma works in nearby Dulverton. In this series, they set up home together and Emma finds a new job in Cheltenham.

**Mike Sandiford** took the summer off after graduating, before taking the job as a resident vet at an animal orphanage in the heart of Botswana. He is now working as a locum in a surgery at Haverfordwest in Wales.

**Julie Richards** started work at a small practice in Builth Wells in mid-Wales, but found herself in conflict with her new boss and left soon after starting. Luckily, Julie found work in the Runcorn practice where she originally trained.

**Fiona Green** started her veterinary career at Bodmin, Cornwall.

**Alison Lee** was one of only six honours students from Langford and she is used to working hard at her practice near Bristol where there is a deluge of patients. She is engaged to **Craig Beck** and they are shortly to be married.

Documentaries

10 x 30 minutes

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### Episode Synopses

**1.** Joe plays Cupid to tortoises Ben and Bluebell. Owner Nina Powell has been trying to get them to breed for 15 years and Joe helps create the right environment for the pair, bringing the first clutch of hatchlings for Nina. But, for Joe, the heavy workload is becoming a strain and he decides to hand in his notice.

On Exmoor, Joe's girlfriend, Emma, has the unenviable task of clipping the toe-nails of Reggie, the temperamental pot-bellied pig, while Mike Sandiford returns from Africa to face an uncertain future. He needs to find work quickly to pay back student debts and faces pressure from his father to get "a proper job".

**2.** John and Joy Haines and their four children are concerned for Nyshka. The Rottweiler puppy is only a few months old, yet she weighs 30 kilos, and the Haines decide to take her to see Trude. The family is devastated to learn that Nyshka has a serious illness, and has to be referred to the veterinary specialists at Langford College.

In Bodmin, Fiona Green performs a dental operation on Rex, the police tracker dog. But, when Rex snaps at Fiona, she calls on the dog's handler, PC Bill Fereday, to help with the sedation. Later, Fiona makes the difficult decision to resign to get a job nearer to her mother, who is recovering from a long-term illness.

Back from Botswana, Mike Sandiford gets a job as a locum in a surgery at Haverfordwest in Wales. His first patient - a duck with a limp - poses problems for him. Farmer Donald Hughes is particularly fond of his ducks and is seriously concerned that something is wrong. But ducks are difficult animals to treat and Mike realises that he's out of his depth.

**3.** Steve Leonard is confronted by a two-month-old calf with severe breathing difficulties. An infection has blocked its windpipe and the only hope is to perform an emergency tracheotomy. Steve has never carried out this procedure before. Fifty miles away at Liverpool University's Vet School, Steve's brother Keith, youngest of the four veterinary brothers, takes up residence in the library. With just two weeks to go before his final exams, the pressure mounts up.

In Yatton near Bristol, Alison Lee deals with a case of poisoning. Client Julie Stowell has inadvertently used some out-of-date flea treatment on her cat, Blackie, who is now extremely ill. "Some cats have actually died as a result of this particular drug," explains Alison. It's a race against time for the young vet as she administers an antidote for organo-phosphate poisoning.

Back from their French holiday, vet couple Joe Inglis and Emma Milne are thinking carefully about the future. Joe has already resigned from his practice and Emma decides to follow after seeing an advert for a job at her old vet school in Langford, near Bristol. "It's all riding on the Langford job," says a nervous Emma. "I just have to hope that if I don't get it, there's not a big gap before I get something else. What if no-one wants me?"

**Documentaries**

**10 x 30 minutes**

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### Episode Synopses

**4.** Trude Mostue flies home to Oslo for an emotional family re-union. The Norwegian vet misses her family and is excited about meeting her sister, nephews and nieces at the airport. It's an emotional time for Trude, who has had little time to visit her family since she left university. After catching up with everyone, she ventures back to the goat farm in the peaceful Norwegian mountains where she worked as a milk maid. "Goats are easier to talk to than men," she says.

Back in England, Emma Milne is called out to an emergency by farmer Christopher Everard. One of his prize cows has gone into labour and Emma has to make an instant decision. The cow is having difficulties and Emma wonders if she can perform an emergency Caesarean on her own. With the help of the Everard family, Emma decides to give it a try.

**5.** A nasty bottom problem comes back to haunt one of Joe Inglis' patients. John Belford's 14-year-old dog, Ricky, was seen by Joe when he had just graduated. Ricky had problems with his rear after swallowing stones on a beach. Joe had cleared the stones, but the problems grow worse and Ricky is back for a make-or-break operation. It's now up to Joe to give back to Ricky some quality of life.

Up in Nottingham, an emergency is rushed into Hannah Pollard's practice. Sophie, the Yorkshire terrier, has overheated in the warm weather, leading to a severe cardiac arrest. Hannah uses some innovative techniques to give Sophie the extra oxygen she needs, but it's touch and go as to whether Sophie pulls through.

Trude Mostue also faces a drama when Georgia, an eight-week-old puppy, is brought in to the Bristol practice. Trude suspects the animal has the Parvo virus – a fatal disease affecting unvaccinated puppies. Will Trude be able to save her?

**6.** It's a tense time at Trude Mostue's practice as she waits for some lab results. Georgia, the Labrador puppy, is hospitalised at the Bristol practice when Trude suspects the dog has the highly-infectious Parvo virus. There is nothing Trude can do until she has confirmation. "I just can't relax until I'm sure she's getting better," she says. "I just feel so sorry for her because she's feeling so badly." The Norwegian vet is proved right when the results come in and, as a last resort, Trude puts Georgia on a course of drugs she has never used before. Will the new drug save the puppy?

Steve Leonard's younger brother, Keith, prepares for his graduation at the Leonard family home in Shropshire. The youngest of the four veterinary brothers passed his final exams in the summer and is about to become a fully-qualified vet. For his mother, Bett, it's the end of an era. "I just can't believe he's the last one, that it's the last time I'll be going to one of these occasions. Part of me still thinks of him as the baby."

**Documentaries**

**10 x 30 minutes**

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**7.** Trude Mostue performs an eye-watering operation as she's called out to castrate Wilbur the pot-bellied pig. Owners Phil and Lisa Newman found Wilbur during a holiday to Cornwall, but he is too restless to be kept in the house. Trude and the Newmans hope the operation will calm him down. As Wilbur sleeps off the operation on his Paddington Bear duvet, Trude declares that she would love a pot-bellied pig of her own.

In Retford, Hannah Pollard can't bear to spay her own dog, Hester, and has to ask colleague Kate Ramsden to perform the operation instead. Although spaying and castrating are routine operations, Hannah waits upstairs, unaware that the operation is not going too smoothly.

**8.** After five years of intensive study, Steve Leonard's youngest brother, Keith, is the fifth in the family to become a vet. Cameras follow Keith throughout his first days at Carmarthen when he emerges as an older and wiser man. Trials and tribulations include being bitten by a vicious miniature pony, a highly stressful operation and attempts to pull a reluctant cow out of its stall.

Love is in the air for older brother Steve. Voted one of Britain's most eligible bachelors, he had seemed content with the single life. But that was before meeting the boss's daughter, Zoë...

**9.** Vets Alison Lee and Craig Beck are just a week away from their wedding, but work must go on. In Bristol, Alison sees Cliff and Kay York's 10-year-old Yorkshire Terrier, Buster. He has a lump on his gum and Alison fears it may be cancer. A few miles away in Clevedon, Alison's fiancé Craig, acting as senior vet, is helping with a difficult case. Eight-year-old Tozzle is having trouble breathing and Craig is also worried it may be cancer.

Another couple are finding life hard. After two months, Emma Milne is without a house or a job. Her boyfriend, Joe Inglis, sits and mopes in a rented room in Bristol, surrounded by all their possessions. They've decided to live together for the first time but finding a house that will accommodate them, the dogs, Emma's drums and Joe's dream of a grassboard workshop isn't going to be easy. To cement their commitment, they've even opened a joint bank account.

At last, Emma has a job in Cheltenham and is happier than in her old practice. One of her first cases is Maureen Hodgeson's cat, Minnie, who has been injured, probably by a car, and requires serious surgery but, mercifully, her injuries are light. At last, Joe and Emma have some luck and find a house. And, as they celebrate their new life together, Alison and Craig prepare for their big event with a wedding rehearsal at a local church.

**Documentaries**

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**10.** After 18 months in practice, the young vets are beginning to settle down. Alison Lee's wedding is only two days away but she's still hard at work. Her last client is Keith and Dawn Entwistle's puppy Pugsley, who has got a sore bottom. Alison discovers the unfortunate pup has swallowed a rather angular bone which has wedged itself in his bottom.

Craig Beck, Alison's fiancé, is beginning to get worried about the wedding and he and Alison discuss last-minute panics. Hannah Pollard is more worried about what to wear to the wedding. She has a dress but needs a jacket. Emma Milne and boyfriend Joe Inglis also have to go shopping to find some suitable shoes for Emma. In the end, Hannah buys a jacket which doesn't go with the dress and Joe buys a pair of shoes for Emma which cost only £2.50.

Joe is back at work in Halesowen and is faced with Pat Tranter's dog Jack, who has eaten a wooden coathanger. Trude Mostue's patient is Brian Roebuck's ginger cat George, who has had a limp tail for days due to a mystery accident. Trude decides George will be better off without it, much to Brian's chagrin. However, both George and Jack recover well from their ordeals.

At last the big day arrives, and Alison and Craig get married in style. Craig breaks down in his speech and everyone is moved. Emma nudges Joe further towards the idea of marriage.

Documentaries

10 x 30 minutes



# Vets in Practice

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### Ratings

Episode	UK Txn Date	Channel	Time On	Viewers	Audience Share
1	05.02.98	BBC1	20.00	9.8 million	40%
2	06.02.98	BBC1	20.00	7.5 million	30%
3	12.02.98	BBC1	20.00	9.7 million	39%
4	13.02.98	BBC1	20.00	7.2 million	31%
5	19.02.98	BBC1	20.00	9.8 million	41%
6	20.02.98	BBC1	20.00	8.0 million	32%
7	26.02.98	BBC1	20.00	10.6 million	43%
8	27.02.98	BBC1	20.00	8.1 million	33%
9	06.03.98	BBC1	20.00	10.1 million	41%
10	21.07.98	BBC1	20.00	8.5 million	33%

### What The Papers Say

"...it's got most of my favourite things. Cats, dogs, horses and an array of highly trained, intelligent blondes." *The Times*

"The veracity, wit, and dramatic tension of this real-life veterinary series ... Producer Nick Shearman fully deserves the continuing success that his series is enjoying, because each programme so far has managed to be thoroughly entertaining without resorting to snide commentary or obvious fakery ... Here, one feels simultaneously on the side of the experts, the owners, and the animals ... I'm completely hooked, even though I'm not a committed animal lover." *Evening Standard*

"Personally I find the animal lovers in the fly-on-the-wall series more fascinating than their pets." *Mirror*

Documentaries

10 x 30 minutes