



# Vets in Practice

## SERIES 8

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**Documentaries**

10 x 30 minutes

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**B B C** Worldwide

# Vets in Practice

## SERIES 8

Healing sick animals is a vocation

National Television Awards 1999  
Most Popular Documentary

Documentaries

10 x 30 minutes



# Vets in Practice

## SERIES 8

### Introduction

This popular show made stars of young vets Trude Mostue, Steve Leonard and their colleagues. 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.

*Vets in Practice* began by following 10 newly qualified, young veterinary students through the first few years on the job. Seven series later, it is now a prime-time favourite in the British schedules and the students are now seasoned vets practising all over the world.

*Vets In Practice* is not just a showcase of interesting animals. It also brings us closer than ever before to those who care for them and provides an insight into the human aspects of the job. It has also created a few stars: Norwegian Trude Mostue, Mike Sandiford, who works in Botswana, and Steve Leonard, voted one of *Company Magazine's* 50 most eligible bachelors. Trude and Steve have also gone on to star in spin-off series, *Vets in the Wild* and *Vets to the Rescue*.

In Series 8, Trude and her heavily pregnant best friend, Maria, are making plans to set up their own practice, so too are Joe and Emma. Sally Kingsley starts a new job, Keith decides to work in Kenya and Fiona Green returns from the Bahamas. The patients include a dog which has been buried underground in a badger sett for seven days, a runaway rabbit, a cat with a mysterious puncture in his belly, a frisky horse and a starving 80-year-old tortoise.

Documentaries

10 x 30 minutes

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**B B C** Worldwide

# Vets in Practice

## SERIES 8

### Production Credits

Series Producer

**Amanda Reilly**

Executive Producer

**Tessa Finch**

Documentaries

10 x 30 minutes



# Vets in Practice

## SERIES 8

### Episode Synopses

1. 2001 is going to be a critical year for Trude Mostue and her heavily pregnant best friend, Maria Lowe. The fellow Norwegians are hoping to turn their dream of setting up their own practice together into a reality. Most of their free time is spent planning the new business venture but, for now, they are both still working at their respective West Country practices. In Frome, a young dog called Jodie has been rushed in by her owners. Miraculously she's been found after being buried underground in a badger sett for seven days. Jodie's internal organs risk irreversible damage as she has not had anything to eat or drink for a week. Trude needs to rehydrate her, and fast. After admitting her and putting her on a drip, there's an anxious wait to see if she will pull through the night. It's also touch and go for one of Maria's patients in Stroud. Rosie, a much-loved family dog, makes a return visit after antibiotics fail to clear up a bladder condition. Maria carries out a scan, only to confirm her worst fears – cancer. After surgery is ruled out as an option, Maria discovers some medicine that could give Rosie a good quality of life. For Trude's fellow vet-school graduate, Steve Leonard, it's the temporary nature of being a locum that best suits him for the time being. Gomez the runaway rabbit is brought into his surgery suffering from a multitude of health problems, after being found hopping around a local green. Gomez' teeth have grown far too long, and Steve cuts them down to size. On the way out, Gomez's new owners spot a notice on the lost-and-found board and set off to reunite the poorly rabbit with his real owners. At the weekend, Trude and Maria are still thinking ahead to their new business venture as they head off to a veterinary exhibition where they can take a look at the latest equipment. But with just days to go from the expected delivery date of her second child, Maria goes prepared with her birth bag, and Trude hopes she won't have to act as midwife!

2. Trude is broody. Her best friend, Maria Lowe, is heavily pregnant and Trude would love to start a family of her own. But Trude's only recently moved in with her boyfriend, Brian, and she and Maria are planning to open their own practice. So for the time being, she's decided to settle for kittens. When she and Brian take delivery of two tiny bundles of grey fluff, she comes to appreciate, more than ever, how much animals can mean to their owners. With only days to go until the birth of Maria's second child, she is quite relieved that it's her last day at work. She was hoping for a quiet day but must first deal with Herbert – a frisky dog in need of his nails clipping. Whilst Maria grapples with Herbert, Tom Leonard, who normally treats farm animals, has been drafted in to help with a small but fierce farm cat with a nasty abscess. Trude has a lively patient on her hands too. Josie the dog has jumped around so much that she's torn a ligament in her knee. Trude enlists the help of her colleague, Kari Dunsford, to perform a new knee-saving operation on the dog – but if it isn't a success, Josie will never have full use of her leg again. Back on the farm, Tom attends a difficult calving – if he doesn't act quickly, both mother and calf could die. Meanwhile, Trude is torn away from looking after her kittens at home to rush to the hospital and see Maria and her new arrival – it's a boy!

Documentaries

10 x 30 minutes



# Vets in Practice

## SERIES 8

### Episode Synopses

3. Sally Kingsley has been a qualified vet for less than a year, and has decided that temporary locum work is what she wants to do for now. Her first job is in Guisely, near her home of Leeds. Fudge, a cat with a mysterious puncture wound on his belly, is waiting for her to figure out exactly what's wrong with him. Keith Leonard has been working as a locum at a number of practices while he saves money to go travelling. His plans are firming up and he's decided to join an RSPCA officer friend in Kenya. Meanwhile, in his last week working at a practice in Anglesey, he has been called out to see a cow with a growth between her claws. But the growth turns out to be in a place and such a size that leaves Keith with a choice between cutting off the claw or putting the animal to sleep. At the Bahamas Humane Society Shawnee the goat, a family pet with a bladder problem, is awaiting Fiona Green's attention. He is one of her last patients here. Fiona has decided to return home to a job with her old boss in Hampshire. There's plenty she'll miss when she leaves; the animals, the nurses and the opportunity to do things she's never done before. But it's time to say goodbye to all the friends she's made and head for home. Keith's off too, leaving Anglesey for the last time. He's got one more locum job to do before his big adventure in Kenya begins.

4. Fiona Green and her boyfriend Nick Allinson arrive back in the UK after 14 months in the Bahamas. Their first stop is Nick's family home, where Fiona is reunited with her faithful hound, Dottie. Then it's straight back to work at her old practice, the Nine Mile Surgery, in Reading. Fiona's first client is a local guide dog called Fable, who has broken a tooth on a bone and needs some dental work. It should be a straight-forward operation, although it's the first dental work that Fiona has carried out for 18 months. At Carterton in Oxfordshire, Joe Inglis meets a wild, stray kitten who has been found in a dustbin by Carol Wilson and Tony Spurrill. "Dusty" is covered in fleas and has a grass seed trapped in her throat. As Carol and Tony can't adopt her, she'll have to stay in the surgery for a few days whilst the practice tries to find her a home. Soon afterwards, Chappie the rabbit is brought in with an infected testicle. Joe immediately ascertains that he has been attacked by another rabbit and needs a castration operation to remove the infected testicle and calm him down. This should prevent any further fighting. Owner Vicky Brooks is very upset – she had no idea her rabbits had been fighting. She suspects that an innocent-looking grey rabbit called Reggie is the culprit. She has seven males in total, and learns from Joe that males should not be kept together. Emma Inglis faces some unusual surgery this week. Prince is a Suzuki cross greyhound, who's got a leaking salivary gland. The saliva collects in his jaw and forms a fluctuating lump. Emma has to operate and remove the offending gland, which is situated between Prince's jugular veins and therefore requires extremely delicate surgery.

Documentaries

10 x 30 minutes



# Vets in Practice

## SERIES 8

### Episode Synopses

5. Emma's boss at the Folly Gardens practice in Tewkesbury is going on holiday and has decided to leave her and Joe in charge for two weeks. It will provide them with the perfect opportunity to see how they manage on their own. Their first case is a cat called Tiggy who's been badly injured in a road accident and has a shattered bone in his leg. Emma delegates Joe to perform orthopaedic surgery but, before surgery can begin, there's a complication. Tiggy has an aggressive nature and doesn't want a vet anywhere near him. His owner picked him up off the streets in Egypt as a kitten and he still has street-fighting instincts, so Joe's biggest challenge is to sedate him for the operation. Meanwhile, there are morning consultations to get on with and Emma's first patient is a Welsh spaniel called Misty with an extraordinarily large tumour growing from the side of her head. Misty's owner has come to Emma for a second opinion on whether or not it would be safe to remove it. After a well-earned coffee-break, it's time for a role reversal. While Emma decides to go ahead and perform complicated and risky surgery on Misty, it's Joe's turn to cover consultations. The pair are planning to set up their own practice and, after their first day at Folly Gardens is a success, Joe arranges a viewing of a large Victorian property in Cheltenham. A week later, and well into their stride, they make use of their individual skills. Joe responds to a call-out to a horse with a nasty gash in his flank, leaving Emma to tend to the small animals back at the Folly practice. At the end of their experiment in working together, Joe draws the short straw and has to do Saturday morning surgery, while Emma packs up her tent and goes off to the Glastonbury Festival for a girlie weekend with her sister, Alice. Later, while the girls enjoy singing along to Macy Gray, Joe manages to relax at last with a game of cricket.

6. Trude has handed in her notice, but her plans to open up her own practice with Maria have come to a halt: they still haven't heard whether the bank will lend them the money. Meanwhile, it's business as usual. At Trude's practice in Warminster, a young kitten called Legs is brought in with severely deformed back legs. Having recently given birth to her second child, Isaac, Maria combines work with pleasure on a family day out when she takes up the offer of being vet-on-hand at a local sheep-racing event. For vet Sally Kingsley, thoughts of setting up her own practice are a long way off. She's only just nearing the end of clearing her student debts and working as a locum in Leeds and Bradford, where she still thrives on the variety of her work. Her first case is Jet, a horse who needs a lump to be removed from his shoulder – a graze opened it up and it is attracting flies. There are more lumps when Cyril Potter brings in his dog, Bess. Since losing his wife and most of his friends through old age, Bess is all that he has and he's anxious that a couple of lumps on her back could be cancerous. Later Sally is faced with a feisty chocolate Labrador called Jade, who is brought in after she ran into a car. Trude and Maria finally get together to await the much-anticipated phone call from the bank. After leaving various messages and getting no response they fear the worst and prepare for an emergency meeting with another bank. After waiting for two hours, they finally get the call... and their fate is decided.

Documentaries

10 x 30 minutes



# Vets in Practice

## SERIES 8

### Episode Synopses

7. Nearly 80 years after the first female vet became a member of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, Emma Inglis, Fiona Green and Sally Kingsley reflect on how far women have come within the profession. Fiona Green has returned to Hampshire after spending a year working in the Bahamas. She's on call over the weekend - a routine requirement in veterinary work that she has never learned to enjoy. Her first client is Blossom Church, a young Daschund puppy who has been attacked by a swarm of wasps on her first walk. After a brief pub lunch with boyfriend Nick, Fiona is called out again to treat Ben, a dog who has half a stick lodged in the roof of his mouth. Sally Kingsley visits an eight-year-old Irish horse, Harry, at a riding and livery stables near Harrogate. He has a respiratory condition, for which he needs regular medication three days a month. Back at Folly Gardens in Tewkesbury, owner Steve Riches has brought in his dog Jack for a routine fatty lump removal. He has several, including a large one on his hind leg which has merged into muscle and other tissue. Emma is convinced that it is an aggressive tumour. Although she removes most of it, it is likely to recur in the future. Meanwhile Fiona is nervously giving a school talk to a large group of eight year-olds. She demonstrates various elements of her job and the children get some hands-on experience, such as listening to a dog's heart. In the evening, all the girls reflect on their current situations and are making plans for the future. Fiona is very happy and settled in Hampshire. She and Nick are planning to buy a house together. Emma is celebrating her second wedding anniversary and has decided to quit, in preparation for going into business with husband Joe. And Sally has a new job, working full time with horses in Marlow.

8. Emma and Joe visit the Bath & West Agricultural Show which rekindles Joe's interest in large animal work. Back at work in Carterton, near Oxford, he has to face up to his fear of snakes when Stuart Lodge brings in his 13-foot python to be weighed. At the Folly Gardens surgery in Tewkesbury, Emma's patient is Poppy, a 12-year-old cat, who needs an operation on her injured knee cap. Joe also has a leg to mend. A nine-week-old rabbit called Flopsy has a broken rear limb and needs a plaster cast. Having got the green light from local planners, Emma and Joe can start buying equipment for the new small animal practice they are planning to open in Cheltenham. Joe sets off for a medical auction in Malmesbury. Emma can't go and feels nervous about what Joe will come back with. Back at work, Joe's next patient is Dee Pink's dog, Billy, who is suffering from bleeding mouth warts. It seems to have been quite a successful day, but while their careers seem to be taking off, things at home aren't going quite to plan for Joe and Emma. Unbeknown to Joe, Emma has been getting cold feet about opening the practice. And that's not all. After two years of marriage, she drops a second bombshell - she wants to end their relationship. In a heart-to-heart interview, Emma explains how she and Joe have grown apart; and Joe talks of his devastation.

Documentaries

10 x 30 minutes



# Vets in Practice

## SERIES 8

### Episode Synopses

9. Keith Leonard is working in picturesque Cumbria as a locum – his last job before he leaves England and his last chance to earn some extra money. His next job will be working on a voluntary basis for the RSPCA in Africa. Meanwhile in Cumbria, awaiting his attention is Rolo, a lovable nine-day-old pet lamb with a very painful abscess in his foot. In Wiltshire, it's Trude Mostue's last week too. She's been called to deal with an emergency at Longleat Safari Park where a new-born calf is extremely weak and unable to stand and suckle. It's vital that he immediately receives his mother's first milk, which is rich in antibodies and Trude must find a way of feeding it to him. Trude's new partner Maria, meanwhile, is overseeing all the building work at their new Bristol practice while she is on maternity leave. They have four weeks to convert a residential house into a veterinary surgery and living quarters for Maria and her family. If they don't get it ready in time, they could stand to lose a great deal of money. Back in Cumbria Keith has to deal with a retriever with a very painful swelling on his ear and a farm call-out to a lame cow with digital dermatitis. Trude's last patients include a rat called Millie, whose owner accidentally stepped on her whilst doing the ironing, and Aaron, a huge Pyrenean Mountain dog whose dense coat is riddled with fleas. As Trude's colleagues gather at a nearby pub to give her a warm send-off, she closes the door for the last time on her old consulting room. Over in Stroud, Maria closes the door on her country house and moves into the flat above the practice. Both Maria and her husband Andrew have given up their jobs - and now they are giving up the security of their home and taking a huge risk by investing everything in the new business. It's a race against time for Maria, Andrew and Trude to get the practice ship-shape and ready in time for the doors to open in just one week.

10. For Trude and Maria, Monday is the big day on Monday – when they finally open their new practice to the public. Beforehand, however, they decide to throw a big party. Friends and relatives come over from Norway and the two vets take the opportunity to wear traditional Norwegian costumes, which also attracts the attention of the press. Monday arrives. Upstairs, Maria's husband Andrew is finding his feet as the new practice manager, while downstairs, the first patients are arriving and the waiting-room is filling-up fast. Trude's first patient is a chicken called Harriet, owned by Vivienne McEwen-Smith. Worried about the size of Harriet's crop, a pouch in her throat used for digestion, Trude decides that she will be their first hospitalised patient. Maria's first patient is Jade, a four-year-old German Shepherd with sore feet. Maria thinks fabric cleaners are causing the irritation and suggests bathing Jade's paws in medicated shampoo. Both vets have a fight on their hands to save the life of a very sick baby rabbit called Smudge with chronic diarrhoea. He hasn't been eating or drinking and is dehydrated. In the surgery room, Maria and Trude fight to save his life by injecting fluids into him but it's touch and go. The following day Jade is back; the medicated shampoo hasn't worked. Next door, Trude has another unusual patient, a tortoise named Denise, who was found lost on the pavement. She's not eating and showing signs of malnutrition.

Documentaries

10 x 30 minutes



# Vets in Practice

## SERIES 8

### Ratings

Episode	UK Txn Date	Channel	Time On	Viewers	Audience Share
1	05.01.01	BBC 1	20.00	5.8 million	23.0%
2	07.01.01	BBC 1	18.25	5.8 million	25.4%
3	12.01.01	BBC 1	20.00	5.7 million	22.9%
4	14.01.01	BBC 1	18.25	6.0 million	26.1%
5	17.01.01	BBC 1	19.30	4.3 million	17.0%
6	21.01.01	BBC 1	18.25	6.5 million	27.4%
7	24.01.01	BBC 1	19.30	4.3 million	16.8%
8	28.01.01	BBC 1	18.05	5.6 million	26.3%
9	31.01.01	BBC 1	19.30	4.4 million	17.2%
10	04.02.01	BBC 1	18.00	7.0 million	32.0%

### What the Papers Say

*Vets In Practice* regularly features as choice of the day in British newspapers. In addition the young vets themselves attract great interest. A selection of features pertaining to Series 8 have been included in this promotion kit.

Documentaries

10 x 30 minutes



# Vets in Practice

## SERIES 8

### What the Papers Say

#### Sunday Times January 21, 2001

Interview: Maria Lowe

Fame and Fortune: Maria Lowe's appearance in *Vets in Practice* has brought her more renown than riches

Maria Lowe is best known for her appearances in BBC 1's *Vets in Practice*, alongside her business partner and fellow Norwegian, Trude Mostue. Maria was born and brought up in Bergen. Her mother is Finnish, her father Norwegian. After leaving school at 18, she worked on farms to save enough money to travel around Australia for a year. When she got back to Norway, Maria worked as a farm caretaker at the weekends and went to college to gain the equivalent of a HND in agriculture. At 24, she came to England and studied at Bristol University for five years to become a vet. She has been practising for six years. Maria and Trude set up their own surgery, Viking Vets, in August. Maria, 35, is married to Andrew, 38, a former farm manager who now oversees the practice. They have two children - Jack, two, and Isak, eight months. The Lowes live in a two-bedroom flat above the surgery in Henbury, north Bristol. A labrador, Maddy, and black cat, Puss, complete the family.

How much money do you have in your wallet?

I think there is 60p left, which is for bread. I generally have about £10 on me for unexpected bits to buy. I live and work in the same building and sometimes don't leave from one week to the next, so I need cash only for milk and bread.

Do you have any credit cards?

I have a Lloyds debit card, which I use most of the time. Andrew and I have a Barclaycard in joint names, which is for emergencies. I don't have my own credit card because I am hopeless with money.

Are you a saver or spender?

I am a spender - I spend the money that I have got. I used to like buying limited edition prints, but now everything goes on the children.

How much did you earn last year?

For much of last year I was working as a vet's assistant, which means you are a fully qualified veterinary surgeon, but a member of staff rather than a practice owner. Had I been working full time, my salary would have been about £30,000. Before we set up the business, I was working three days a week, and earned £20,000. I get about £2,000 for each series of *Vets in Practice*. The BBC approached me because they wanted to introduce some new vets, but I have no desire to be a television personality.

Documentaries

10 x 30 minutes



# Vets in Practice

## SERIES 8

### What the Papers Say.../2

Have you ever been really hard up?

I have always had a job because we did not have a lot of money when I was young. My parents divorced when I was eight. My father is a marine biologist and my mother a librarian. As a teenager, I used to work as an office cleaner to bring in some cash. I also looked after other people's farms. I was stranded with no money whatsoever in 1985 in Australia, where I met my husband. I was doing a lot of little jobs but just did not have any cash. My father sent £400 emergency money to the bank - the deal was I had to repay him with a holiday. He's still waiting, because I don't have much spare cash.

What is the most lucrative work you have done?

Did you use the fee for something special? My first BBC cheque for *Vets In Practice* was for £2,000 two years ago - and that was quite a windfall. I took my husband out for a meal in a country manor and put the rest towards paying off my student loan in Norway. When you study in Norway you have to take out a loan - and I borrowed £22,000. I started training to be a vet in 1989 as an overseas student at Bristol University. I paid £6,000 in tuition fees for the first year, but then I was lucky. A Norwegian veterinary college subsidised five students at Bristol and was paying for two unused places, so I applied to have the rest of my fees paid. I saved myself £36,000. I then had to find the money for my living expenses. Most students from my country end up taking a loan of £25,000 to £30,000, which they pay back over 25 years. I will finish mine in 2011. The money is from the Norwegian government bank and is interest free during the five years that you study. After that the loan is on a low interest rate, about 6.5%.

Do you own a property?

Yes - or should I say the Royal Bank of Scotland does. The property, which includes the surgery, is owned by Trude and me. We borrowed £310,000: the house cost £295,000 and we spent the rest on alterations. It was reduced from £350,000 because it had been on the market for a year. It is a six-bedroom town house with an enclosed garden. I know the price is nothing compared with London, but to us it is a huge commitment. I live above the surgery and pay back my share of the loan in kind - I am on duty 24 hours a day, Monday to Thursday. Trude and I share the weekends. So I pay the practice with my time, which is worth £800 a month. For the time being, Trude and I are just covering our overheads and have yet to make a profit.

What has been your worst investment?

When we set up the practice a veterinary business adviser gave us a lot of advice, 90% of which I already knew. It cost us £1,000 for three hours of consultation and his report.

And your best?

Definitely my education, although it is costing me a lot. By the time I have cleared my student loan over 25 years, I will have paid out more than £100,000.

**Documentaries**

**10 x 30 minutes**



# Vets in Practice

## SERIES 8

### What the Papers Say.../3

Do you manage your own financial affairs?

My personal ones, yes.

What is your top financial priority?

To provide for my children. It is on my agenda to look into school fees. We are going to think about schools in the private sector, though I come from a country where almost all children attend state schools.

Do you have a money weakness?

No, because I haven't got any money to waste.

What is the most extravagant thing you have ever done?

Given birth!

Do you play the lottery? What if you won?

Yes. I put in £2 a week. With a big win I would pay off my debts and carry on working as a vet, perhaps with some nights off. It would not change me as a person, but we would have more holidays and meals out.

What is the most important lesson you have learnt about money?

That the less money you have, the more you have to pay for. When there is more money about, goods become negotiable. Once you start wheeling and dealing, any price can be changed. If you are poor you never question the price.



# Vets in Practice

## SERIES 8

### What the Papers Say.../3

**Sunday Times**  
**January 7, 2001**

It's been a difficult new year holiday for Trude. As *The Sun* revealed last week, the television vet is back on the market after dumping her latest boyfriend. So if you are prof chap, thirties, tall, sporty, successful and you are after a fun-loving blonde Norwegian, 32, prof, gsoh, who can stick her forearm into a cow's backside and knows how to worm a labrador you might care to drop Trude Mostue, star of *Vets in Practice*, a line.

"I'm on my own again," she told *The Sun*. "That's not a very nice situation to be in, especially over Christmas. But I've got plenty of work to keep me occupied."

And that's her problem. She blames work commitments for the ending of her relationship with Brian Poulsen, a 31-year-old Danish engineer. "Brian was perfect - a fantastic guy, kind, good-looking, the lot. But the relationship needed work and I just don't have time."

She is not only involved in *Vets in Practice* for the BBC, but also *Vets in the Wild*. And it can't be long before *Changing Vets*, *Can't Cook Won't Vet*, *Trude's Garden Army*, *The Weakest Vet*, and *Who Wants To Be A Vet?*

"My lifestyle is so busy that I'm realising it would be wiser to keep boyfriends out of my life," said Trude.

**Documentaries**

**10 x 30 minutes**



# Vets in Practice

## SERIES 8

### What the Papers Say.../4

#### People

January 7, 2001

I found out my marriage was over when I heard my TV vet wife talk dirty about her new lover  
By TV hunk Joe Inglis

Heartbroken *Vets in Practice* star Joe Inglis told last night how he found out his marriage to wife Emma was over when he overheard her talking dirty about her new lover. Sexy Emma was telling a friend in great detail just how fantastic her new boyfriend was in bed and all the raunchy things he wanted to do to her. Shocked Joe, 28 - whose romance with Emma has been one of the most gripping storylines in the BBC docu-soap - said: "When I found out she was sleeping with another man I felt as though someone had taken a knife and stabbed me. The hurt I felt was unbearable. "Emma and I used to have a fantastic sex life and I couldn't believe she was already seeing someone else. I know we had been having our problems and I had moved into the spare bedroom but we were still living in the same house. "It seems obvious that our marriage didn't mean that much to her." Joe has decided to speak out about his stormy relationship with Emma after she blamed the collapse of their two-year marriage on his immaturity. He revealed how his beautiful TV vet wife: was sexually rampant at the start of their relationship; cheated on him while they were still living under the same roof; received filthy e-mails from her new lover on Joe's address.

Joe and Emma, 28, became two of the biggest stars of *Vets In Practice* after 10 million people watched their wedding in August 1998. But in the new series of the hit show, viewers will see the couple's relationship start to collapse. Joe said last night: "Emma needed a lot of attention and affection all the time. "She was very demanding. And she was moody if she didn't get her own way. Things were going wrong and she said she wanted a break so we moved into separate bedrooms three months ago. Emma acted like she had already got over me and started going out every night to clubs and parties. One night when she got home with a girlfriend I overheard them talking. That's when I found out she had a new lover. She was telling her friend in great detail about this new guy and how he had whispered all these really sexy things in her ear about what he'd like to do to her in bed. She was giggling like an excited teenager who was having sex for the first time. I was shocked at how easily she had disregarded our marriage. She told me recently that she met him after we'd started sleeping apart. But who knows what they got up to while I was still around."

A couple of weeks later, Joe was shocked and appalled to read a sexually explicit e-mail that Emma's new lover had left at their joint address. He said: "It was a graphic picture of two cartoon characters indulging in sex acts. I felt sick. I couldn't believe he was rubbing in my face the fact he was now making love to my wife. "He must have been laughing at me. I felt so humiliated that Emma could have given him our e-mail address knowing I might read one of his messages. "I sent him an e-mail back telling him to have the decency to at least wait until I had moved out. But he didn't reply to that." Joe has now moved out of the house he shared with Emma in Cheltenham, Glos, and is slowly starting to rebuild his life.

Documentaries

10 x 30 minutes



# Vets in Practice

## SERIES 8

### What the Papers Say.../5

Although he feels bitter and angry about the way their marriage ended, he has happier memories of the time when they first met while studying to be vets at Bristol University. He said: "Physically we were very compatible. Emma's a very attractive girl and there was a lot of chemistry between us."

Although the couple were very happy together - and were delighted by all the attention they were receiving from the TV show - Joe says that he had never really considered getting married until Emma badgered him into it. He said: "It was very much her idea. On Christmas Eve three years ago, she dragged me into the bedroom and proposed. It was all filmed for the TV show as well. Emma had gone on about it for so long it sounded like a good idea. But I would never have asked her. She pushed me into it. If I had put up a fight, I wouldn't have won anyway. I never won an argument with Emma."

It wasn't long after the wedding that the cracks began to appear in their relationship. Joe said: "We realised what I had always suspected deep down - that apart from the sex we didn't have a huge amount in common. "And Emma was very moody. If I went off surfing or snow-boarding at the weekend - which were things she wasn't interested in - she wouldn't talk to me for a week." As the couple became household names, Joe also began to fear Emma loved the showbiz lifestyle more than she loved him. He said: "She loved going to celebrity parties and when I refused to go to film premieres she called me boring. She wanted the marriage all her way." As the arguments got worse, so their sex life started to suffer. Joe said: "When we were first married we couldn't keep our hands off each other but then we stopped making love so often. There was obviously a problem but neither of us discussed it."

By the time they did talk about what was happening to their marriage, Emma had made up her mind that she wanted out. Joe said: "One night she went off to this film premiere in London with her sister and they met these two guys. She came home telling me what a wonderful time she had with these two blokes. I think she realised that she wanted to go to exciting parties every night and didn't want to be with me any more. She had made the decision without me - and that was it, there was no more to discuss. And as if to rub in the point that the marriage was over, she very quickly went out and slept with this other man. I couldn't believe she could do that so easily, while I was still living with her. It made me realise our marriage cannot have meant much to her at all and I'm better off without her."

Documentaries

10 x 30 minutes



# Vets in Practice

## SERIES 8

### Other programmes which may be of interest

#### **Vet School**

6 x 30'

Follows eight vet students in their fifth and final year at Langford Vet School.

#### **Vets in the Wild**

8 x 30'

Trude Mostue and Steve Leonard on a field trip in Africa.

#### **Vets in the Wild Special: Polar Bear**

1 x 50'

Trude and Steve encounter danger and tragedy on a trip to the Arctic

#### **Vets to the Rescue**

30 x 30' or 15 x 50'

Trude and a team of animal experts set up a marquee in Chester Zoo.

Future Production:

#### **Ultimate Killers** (6 x 30' or 3 x 60'),

Steve Leonard pits his wits against the most deadly creatures in nature