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GOT A PET? IT'S A SURE BET YOU WILL NEED A VET

Thousands of inner city apartment dwellers own a pet. But when little Fido or Fifi isn't feeling too flash, it can be difficult to access veterinary care.

This is where a mobile vet may come to the rescue. Albert Park couple Chris Gleeson and Natasha Watts have started Bayside Mobile Vet, and are only too happy to happy to provide house calls.

"There is no vet in the CBD, Southbank or Docklands, and most vets in nearby suburbs don't like making house calls to here because of the lack of parking," Dr Gleeson said. "But we have a commercial van, so it's not a hassle for us."

"Of course, most inner city residents don't have a car, so it is not easy for them to transport their pet to a vet. And many pets, especially older dogs and cats, become extremely anxious when dragged into a clinic. By treating the pet at their own home, it is much less stressful for them."

"For example, I just now gave a little puppy his first vaccination and health check, in an apartment at Lacrosse, in Docklands' LaTrobe St."

Dr Gleeson and Dr Watts, who each graduated from Melbourne University with Bachelor of Veterinary Science and Bachelor of Science, have 20 years of veterinary experience between them, including in the United Kingdom and at the Lort Smith Animal Hospital, in North Melbourne. Dr Gleeson has further studied in the fields of small animal dermatology (skin disease), ultrasonography, animal hydrotherapy and rehabilitation.

"We have access to a veterinary clinic, should a surgical procedure be necessary," Dr Gleeson said. "We also provide referrals and transport, should your pet need to see a specialist."

Dr Gleeson and Dr Watts have two young children, Toby, 3, and Sophie, 12 months, so they know how important your pet is to the family, especially children. "Owners with multiple pets or those with young children also value the convenience of having the vet visit your home," Dr Gleeson said. "There are many routine services that we can provide at your home including vaccinations, health checks, medical consultations and presurgical exams. "We are able to deliver flea and worming preventatives as well as food and medications if it is pre-arranged."

Sadly, sometimes euthanasia is required.

"We understand that when the time comes it is more comfortable for you and your pet to be in a familiar surrounding when you have to say good-bye," Dr Gleeson said. "At BMV we are able to provide a service where you can say a final good-bye to your pet at your home. If you are unsure about whether the 'time has come' we may be able to give you some guidance with your decision-making process."



CAPTION: Bayside Mobile Vet's Dr Chris Gleeson couldn't do much for Docklands' iconic "Cow up a Tree", but he can certainly treat your pet in your own home.

"We are able to help organise burial or cremation for your pet if this is required."

For more details, visit

www.baysidemobilevet.com.au, or call 0488 061 444. Mention this story to receive free worming treatment for your pet.