



Introducing...

Dr. Gabrielle Carter BVSc (hons), MSc, MAN-ZCVSc, DACVB.

Gabrielle is an Australian Veterinary Specialist in Animal Behaviour. After many years in general veterinary practice, Gabrielle completed a 3 year Residency at the Behaviour Referral Service in the Veterinary School at Purdue University, USA. For the last 7 years she has worked at 'Good Pet Behaviour' in Melbourne, helping owners solve their pet's behaviour problems. Additionally she provides educational opportunities in animal behaviour for a range of audiences from the veterinary, welfare and public arenas. She loves the hands on time she spends working with owners, addressing behavioural and mental health issues, and is continually inspired by the many ways in which pets and owners can share and enrich each others lives.



Low Stress Handling: Improving outcomes for animals and handlers

Stress, anxiety and fear are common emotional states experienced by animals in shelters, veterinary clinics and when fostered. Stress, anxiety and fear underlie many behavioural problems in animals, some of which pose a risk of injury to staff, and may reduce the animal's success in finding a new home. Additionally, these emotional states may represent poor welfare. How we interact and communicate with animals in our care, can impact significantly on how they respond to these challenging environments. This presentation will highlight the main features of customised educational programs on low stress handling that have been presented to shelters, vet clinics and foster groups. Topics overviewed include communicating with cats and dogs, understanding causes of anxiety, fear and aggression, how to change behaviour, specific techniques for handling difficult dogs and cats, managing environmental stressors and appropriate use of equipment and medications.