



A U S T R A L I A N
V E T E R I N A R Y P A L L I A T I V E C A R E
A D V I S O R Y C O U N C I L



Conference Program

2018 Australian Veterinary Palliative Care Conference

Watermark Hotel

551 Wickham Terrace, Spring Hill QLD

8:30am to 5pm

Provisional Program

SATURDAY 19 MAY 2018

8:30am	Registration and refreshments
9:00am	Welcome to Conference: Goals and Principles of Palliative Medicine
9:30am	QOL Assessment and Ethical Decision Making at End of Life
10:30am	Morning Tea
11:00am	A Palliative Approach to Pain
11:45am	Palliative Care in the Terminal Cancer Patient
12:30pm	Lunch
13:00pm	Physiotherapy for Geriatrics
13:45pm	End of Life Conversations: Supporting Clients through Grief and Loss
14:30pm	Afternoon Tea
15:00pm	Case Studies and an introduction to the IAAHPC – what can the US teach us?
15:45pm	Q&A Panel: Palliative Medicine in Australia
16:30pm	Where to from here: The Australian Veterinary Palliative Care Advisory Council
17:00pm	Close

*Please note the conference organisers reserve the right to alter session times and topics without notice.



Speakers and Abstracts

Dr. Anne Fawcett

Anne Fawcett is a companion animal veterinarian at Sydney Animal Hospitals Inner West and lecturer in the Sydney School of Veterinary Science. She is a Member of the Australian and New Zealand College of Veterinary Scientists Animal Welfare Chapter, and a Diplomat of the European College of Animal Welfare and Behaviour Medicine (Animal Welfare Science, Ethics and Law). She co-wrote *Veterinary Ethics: Navigating Tough Cases* with Dr Siobhan Mullan (2017:5M). Anne is keenly interested in the application of animal welfare science and ethical theory at the coalface of veterinary practice, where real decisions must be made with an incomplete dataset in an imperfect world. She is also passionate about the wellbeing of those who look after animals, including veterinarians and nurses, and was one of the co-editors of the *Vet Cook Book* (2017:CVE).

Session: QOL Assessment and Ethical Decision Making at End of Life

Veterinarians in practice are frequently called to make assessments of quality of life, yet there is no minimally accepted quality of life (QOL) below which euthanasia is universally agreed to be the right step.

In this session, Anne will explore some of the different tools used for assessing QOL. She will also explore how different ethical frameworks may be employed by veterinarians in end of life discussions with owners. These tools can be used to assess and help the client assess the veterinary patient's QOL, as well as justify recommendations.

Dr. Jackie Campbell

Jackie Campbell is one of Australia's leading voices in the field of veterinary palliative care. The owner of Sunset Vets, the nation's largest network of veterinarians focused exclusively on palliative and end-of-life support services, Jackie spends much of her time helping families to effectively navigate medical decision making at end-of-life. After graduating with honours from the University of Queensland in 2006 Jackie quickly became a passionate advocate for the advancement of palliative medicine within the veterinary field. In 2017 she became Australia's first veterinarian to achieve certification in Animal Hospice and Palliative Care (CHPV). She holds a diploma in Canine Myotherapy and has clinical interests in osteoarthritis and chronic pain, making her a vocal supporter for the inclusion of allied health and interdisciplinary professionals within veterinary treatment plans.

Session: A Palliative Approach to Pain

Pain management is one of our most important goals at end of life, and as advocates for our patients, veterinarians need to be adept at both the recognition and treatment of pain. But how much do we understand about our patient's experience of pain at end of life? And are we adequately equipped to manage the multifaceted presentations of this symptom.

In this session, Jackie will examine both pharmacological and non-pharmacological management tools for chronic pain. She gives a practical insight into her own experiences as a palliative care veterinarian and encourages us to think 'beyond the label' with respect to our approach to pain.



Dr. Kathleen O'Connell

Kathleen has been dedicated to the field of oncology since working on the human melanoma vaccine trial at the Princess Alexandra Hospital in 2001 as a researcher. She credits her background in immunology research with piquing her interest in the specialty of oncology. After a number of years in cancer research she completed a Bachelor of Veterinary Science, graduating from the University of Queensland in 2006 with first class honours. Following graduation, she worked in general practice in Brisbane before commencing training as a resident in Veterinary Oncology in 2008. In 2010 she attained MANZCVS in Small Animal Medicine and then in 2013 attained FANZCVS and became a registered specialist in Veterinary Oncology. She has recently worked in her own referral oncology service and is excited to become a founding partner of the new Animal Referral Hospital, a specialist clinic that opened in Sinnamon Park, Brisbane, in June 2017.

Session: Palliative Care in the Terminal Cancer Patient

Palliative care of cancer patients is designed for pets that have advanced incurable disease, helping prolong survival and ease or eliminate symptoms. Cancer treatments such as surgery, chemotherapy, targeted therapy, and radiotherapy may be used as part of the palliative treatment plan.

In this session, Kathleen will largely discuss the role of palliative chemotherapy in providing pain reduction, improved physical function and longevity in pets with advanced cancer while slowing the rate of associated cancer symptoms.

Brooke Marsh

Brooke is a qualified human Physiotherapist specialised in Animal Physiotherapy and is a highly motivated member of her field. She graduated from the University of Queensland in 1997 as a Physiotherapist. While working in human private practice she completed the Masters of Animal Studies (Physiotherapy) in 2005. She is the director of Holistic Animal Physiotherapy and works alongside the specialist veterinary teams at NCVS on the Sunshine Coast and QVS in Brisbane. In this setting, she rehabilitates a wide variety of acute and chronic conditions and has a passion to maximise the quality of life for her patients (owners included) right to the end stages. Brooke believes working closely with the veterinary profession fosters a uniquely holistic team approach to every animal's rehabilitation.

Session: Managing the Geriatric Patient: A Physiotherapy Perspective

We all know how challenging it can be to be involved in end stages of care for our geriatric patients. A multifaceted and multidisciplinary approach has been shown to be most beneficial in human and animal medicine. As a team we can make this process comfortable and less stressful for all involved.

Implementing Physiotherapy intervention in the care of geriatric patients can improve pain levels and function; assist in advising owners on best care at home; provide and implement appropriate and safe exercise regimes; and prevent further complications commonly seen in the ageing process. In this discussion we will discuss what to look for when assessing your geriatric clients, what physiotherapy interventions can be implemented for optimum outcomes and discuss specific cases commonly seen in veterinary practice.



Rosie Overfield

Rosie Overfield has spent nearly 20 years supporting veterinary professionals to enhance their communication, resiliency and emotional-intelligence skills. Rosie is a registered counsellor, coach, HR advisor and yoga therapist with a Bachelor of Communication and a Master of Human Resources and Organisational Development. Formerly a veterinary nurse, she is now the Australian Veterinary Association's Mental Health First Aid trainer and an industry consultant supporting practices to develop mentally-healthy workplaces. Rosie is a founding member of the Australian Veterinary Palliative Care Advisory Council.

Session: End of Life Conversations: Supporting Clients through Grief and Loss

Supporting clients to say goodbye to a pet can be one of the hardest, yet most rewarding, parts of being a veterinary professional. It takes empathy, connection and a toolbox full of communication techniques.

In this session, Rosie will outline the types of grief clients can experience; before, during and after the loss of a pet. She will also help participants identify the key communication skills for making the euthanasia appointment as smooth as possible. Tips and techniques will also be shared on how to refer clients on to professional help.

