Vet HQ

Vet HQ Goes Overseas – Cambodia Vet Care

Since we're all wishing we could travel overseas, Dr. Bri at Vet HQ Darlinghurst thought she'd share with you her trip to Cambodia where she spent three weeks through Vets Beyond Borders, working at a clinic with local vets to help the animals in the communities of Phnom Penh.

The bustling city of Phnom Penh was full of stray animals. Every pagoda in the city was overrun by stray cats and dogs in need of basic veterinary care. We would go around in a tuk-tuk catch as many stray cats and dogs as we could, bring them back to the clinic and administer flea and tick prevention, deworming tablets and desex them.

They also have a massive problem with ticks, similar to Australia, but with a different disease. Almost every animal that came into the hospital during my stay in Cambodia had tick fever, which is a blood-borne bacterial disease transmitted by tick bites. The disease can be fatal if it goes untreated. Luckily most animals recovered with treatment of antibiotics and fluid therapy.

We also went out to the more remote communities to educate the locals on the importance of basic veterinary care, desexing their animals and providing free rabies vaccinations. Learning the local language (Khmer) was difficult, but we even took lessons every Sunday at a local restaurant where they served my favourite dish (Fish Amok)!

My time in Cambodia was an absolute blast, but also showed me how lucky I am to work in Australia where basic vet care is so universal.

Dr Brianna