



Marlena Lopez loves being a vet and improving the welfare of animals.

# Vet offers help to novice pet parents

Suzie Luddon asked North Melbourne resident and American-born vet Marlena Lopez some hard questions about her life.

**Tell me about growing up in the United States.**

I grew up in a small town, Big Bear Lake in California. Big Bear is on top of a mountain range and was named after the grizzly bears that populated the area. Growing up surrounded by nature ignited my love and respect for animals and the environment.

**What brought you to Australia?**

I moved to Australia for love, after meeting an Australian while

travelling, and to pursue a veterinary medicine degree. I'm now an Australian citizen and have been here for more than eight years.

**What do you enjoy about living in North Melbourne?**

I've been a North Melbourne resident since I arrived in Australia. Initially, I came here because it was close to uni but I found North Melbourne so welcoming that I've stayed here. I have made this vibrant neighbourhood my home.

**What are the best things about being a vet?**

Becoming a vet was my lifelong dream. My mum says that, as soon as I could talk, I would say I wanted to be an 'animal doctor' when I grew up. Later, I was inspired by my local vet. I love being a vet, improving the welfare of animals and, in turn, their human companions. I partner with clients to form diagnostic and treatment plans for their pets.

**What is Veterinary Adventures?**

In vet school, I created my social page, @veterinary\_adventures, and it became popular on social media.

Now as a vet with 70,000 social media followers, I use my platform to raise awareness on charitable organisations, to offer insight on vets' daily activities, and to provide pet owner education to empower owners to provide the best care for their animal companions.

*Below: Marlena has developed a set of informative cards for new pet parents.*

**Tell me about your recent project to help pet owners.**

As a vet, I believe in empowering pet owners with the knowledge and resources to provide the best care for their companion animals.

To that end, I've recently developed a set of informative cards titled 'Coaching Cards for New Cat Parents' and 'Coaching Cards for New Dog Parents'.

These decks are valuable resources for new pet owners, covering many topics essential to their pet's wellbeing.

Each deck has 50 illustrated cards full of practical information.

For cats, they cover the right food selection, behavioural concerns (like furniture scratching), interpreting cat body language, and knowing when a vet visit is needed.

Similarly, for dogs, the cards cover choosing the perfect breed to suit one's lifestyle, home dental care, managing separation anxiety. And much more.

**How can people get your cards?**

The decks are available at stores across Australia, including Booktopia, Dymocks, Readings, QBD Books, Thames & Hudson, Farrells Bookshop, Amazon, and more.

*Suzie Luddon writes regularly for the News.*

**Want to know more?**

Check these sites:  
[www.instagram.com/veterinary\\_adventures/](http://www.instagram.com/veterinary_adventures/)  
[www.veterinaryadventures.com/](http://www.veterinaryadventures.com/)

## KRYPTIC KWIZ Maurice Gaul

See page 27 for the answers.

Maurice Gaul is editor of the News.

**Here are 30 characters from Shakespeare's plays**

Abraham	Antonio	Arthur	Beatrice	Berkeley	Blanche
Burgundy	Canterbury	Charmian	Cleopatra	Norfolk	Gobbo
Gough	Hamlet	Hastings	Herald	Juno	Leonardo
Leonine	Mariana	Maria	Mariner	Menelaus	Milan
Miranda	Montague	Puck	Travers	Ulysses	Viola

**Can you link the names to these clues? (They're either cryptic, obscure or simply silly.)**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 I'm regal but my end came when I didn't clasp the asp         | 16 I'm an English king who held my royal court round a table    |
| 2 I'm a widely used anagram of the Gallic "There you are!"      | 17 I'm an island where convicts once pined for their freedom    |
| 3 I'm an Aussie novelist, a hawkish lover with a French name    | 18 I'm an artistic genius and my name is hidden inside a code   |
| 4 I'm an old salt, compelled to tell my tale to every passer-by | 19 I'm deeply entrenched, a place where deepest waters flow     |
| 5 I'm an English princess, the first-born of HRH Randy Andy     | 20 I'm a battlefield where William did a fair bit of conquering |
| 6 I'm both a nice dry red and a deep reddish-brown colour       | 21 I'm harshly treated, belted around in brutal on-ice contests |
| 7 I'm a saint whose flower would be the yellow rose of Texas    | 22 I'm the oldest sister of three Yorkshire female authors      |
| 8 I'm a messenger who was once a Melbourne newspaper            | 23 I'm an Australian writer, George's writing mate on Hydra     |
| 9 I'm a Canadian beach recalled for a tough 1944 June day       | 24 I'm a high-fashion centre where you can enjoy a last supper  |
| 10 I'm part of a tuneful trio, once blowing softly in the wind  | 25 I'm thankful to an angel who held my hand and saved my son   |
| 11 I'm a suburban street with an infamously low-rise bridge     | 26 I'm full of hubris and pride and I draw a line in the jungle |
| 12 I'm a prince, a great Dane, and I'm smaller than a village   | 27 I'm a Sydney suburb and I once said "Oh, brave new world"    |
| 13 I'm a California uni, a 1960s' epicentre for student protest | 28 I'm where the pilgrims headed in spring in a famous Tale     |
| 14 I'm a big-mouth mouthpiece with my big foot in two camps     | 29 I'm actually Edward but I'm revered by my middle name        |
| 15 I'm a blooming long Dublin journey few have ever finished    | 30 I'm a spartan mate of a beauty who launched many ships       |



# ADAM BANDT MP

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