Dr Meredith Brothers  
Wilston Vet and AVA PetPEP volunteer

"Children are our next generation of pet owners. I believe that by educating children about responsible pet ownership and animal welfare issues, as we do with AVA PetPEP, we'll lay the foundation for positive change.

Dr Christine Cole  
Senior Veterinarian, RSPCA

"I know every day I’m making a difference. There are fewer dogs on the street due to our desexing projects. If you think one person can't do much, go somewhere in the world where vets are in short supply and see the difference one person can make. It's something we take for granted.

Dr Colin Hort  
Executive Officer, Australian Small Animal Veterinary Association

"Some days we can see five or six pro bono patients. I have treated animals from dogs and cats, to tawny frog mouth owls, possums, bandicoots and marsupial mice.

Dr Susan Maastricht  
Head, Veterinary Nursing and Veterinary Clinic, Biotechnology and Animal Sciences, Box Hill Institute

"Animal welfare is our business.

We teach the science, philosophy, advocacy and emotion associated with animal welfare to our undergraduate veterinary students so that veterinarians understand all the issues surrounding animal welfare."
The Australian Veterinary Association (AVA®) is the professional organisation representing veterinarians across the country, including those working in local practice, in livestock production, as animal specialists, in research and development and in teaching positions.

Animal welfare is our business

We contribute around $29.7 million of pro bono work to the welfare of animals each year
We work in animal welfare shelters and rescue organisations as employees or contractors, often providing services at lower rates than in private practice
We volunteer services to animal welfare shelters and rescue organisations
We give expert advice on the health and welfare of animals to State Animal Welfare Advisory Committees. We were instrumental in banning tail docking in 2000
We organise ‘puppy classes’ to deal with problem behaviours and teach responsible pet ownership to help reduce pet abandonment
We advocate for animal welfare to governments. We lobbied to stop the importation of Savannah cats in 2008
We conduct targeted desexing programs, working with local governments and the RSPCA
We run AVA PetPEP, an education program to help young people understand and appreciate their responsibilities towards pets

Our business provides education in herd health, preventative medicine, nutrition and drought management. We treat sick and injured livestock and tend to obstetrical emergencies in cattle at any time of day or night. Maintaining welfare standards is not just a financial imperative, it’s an absolute moral obligation to the animals under our care.

Dr Scott Parry
Coonamble Veterinary Surgery