



Episode #24: Mindset and Connection, with Dr. Charlie El-Hage

Dr. Charlie El-Hage is a lecturer and clinician at the University of Melbourne in Australia. Outside of his official role he also regularly travels to developing countries where he volunteers his expertise to improve animal welfare. He does this first and foremost by getting his hands dirty on the front- line, but also by educating and inspiring. He is wildly popular with his students and all those he deals with and has become an institution in his own right.

What will I learn from this episode?

- The importance of connection and relationships in building a happy career.
- How comments by people who you respect can influence your thinking.
- Charlie's sources of his boundless energy and enthusiasm.
- Why he thinks vets need to do charity work.
- His thoughts on whether to specialise or not.

One thing to remember: How to be effective in your career as a vet.

- Learn to embrace what you do.
- Look forward to going into the consult room.
- Engage with people by:
 - looking them in the eye
 - listening to their stories
 - taking it in
 - and remembering to enjoy it!



Charlie says:

“Yes, you’re there to see their animals, but it’s not going to work unless you engage with them. You can be as smart and as technical and as clever as you like, but remember that there’s an interface there, and you’re not gonna get past go unless you really savour and enjoy their story.”

“I feel like we have a gift as veterinarians in a modern country with every available resource. We’ve been given this opportunity to get an education - we didn’t really have to do *that* much. Yes, we worked hard, but it wasn’t a huge physical challenge. Suddenly we’re vets, and we’re able to do really good things in the community. We’re able to make a difference.”

Charlie’s favourite books:

(I’m not going to send you links to these books - you need to go to a dusty second hand bookstore and hunt them down there!)

To Kill A Mockingbird - Harper Lee

The shipping news - Annie Proulx