



#37: Big goals, small steps. With Dr Mark Kelman

Dr Mark Kelman is a veterinarian, independent scientific researcher, social philanthropist and investor. He's had a wildly varying career, from working as a graduate at the RSPCA, working in general practice, as Technical Services Manager for Companion Animals at Virbac Animal Health, then as an independent scientific researcher and consultant, all the while running his own in property investing company and writing a book on property investing. While with Virbac, Mark created Disease WatchDog, Australia's national pet disease surveillance system that operated from 2010 to 2017, which has collected considerable data and has resulted in a number of peer-reviewed scientific publications, many of which Mark has co-authored.

In 2016, Mark started a PhD with University of Sydney on Canine Parvovirus epidemiology, and currently he is leading a research-and-intervention project with the goal of eradicating Parvo. He is also the co-founder and a director of Paws for a Purpose, a social enterprise charity that provides benevolent support for people with pets, in need of help. The charity raises funds and awareness for various issues including Canine Parvovirus. Mark is also a board director of the charity Pets In The Park which helps to provide care for the pets of homeless people.

Our conversation with Mark meanders all over the veterinary profession. He tackles some of the biggest issues that we face as vets, like trying to find a balance between our responsibility to care for animals of owners who are unable to afford veterinary care with our need to earn a decent income and career diversification as a key for career longevity. Mark shares his journey with us and tells us why he still loves working as a vet. Ultimately it's a hopeful conversation about taking action, big dreams, and the small steps that get you to those dreams.

Show Notes

Paws for a purpose: <https://www.pawsforapurpose.org>

More about Mark: <https://au.linkedin.com/in/mark-kelman-60b27659>

Pets in the Park: http://petsinthepark.org.au/#!/page_home

Mark's book choices:

The Alchemist, by Paul Coelho <https://amzn.to/34mvs3G>

Peaks and Valleys, by Spencer Johnson <https://amzn.to/3amvl6l>

Oh the Places You'll Go, by Dr Seuss <https://amzn.to/2J1r3eZ>

The Happiest Refugee, by Anh Do <https://amzn.to/2Kge2ie>

**“You have brains in your head.
You have feet in your shoes.
You can steer yourself
any direction you choose!”**

-Dr. Seuss

