

CHALKLAND VETS: BUILDING A VETERINARY PRACTICE WITH HEART, EXPERTISE AND A SHARED VISION

When two experienced veterinary professionals share the same ambition, remarkable things can happen. For the female founders of Chalkland Vets, years of working together laid the foundations for a dream that would eventually become one of Wiltshire's most trusted independent veterinary practices.

United by a passion for animal welfare and a desire to do things differently, the pair recognised an opportunity to create a practice where exceptional clinical care could sit alongside something equally important: meaningful relationships with clients and their pets. Rather than becoming part of a corporate chain, they chose to build an independent business rooted firmly within the communities it serves.

That vision became Chalkland Vets.

Before founding Chalkland Vets, both owners worked within the corporate veterinary sector. Although the experience proved invaluable, they shared a growing desire to create something different: an independent practice where decisions could be guided by clinical judgement, compassion and patient welfare rather than corporate priorities. Turning that vision into reality required significant courage. To secure the funding needed to launch the business, co-founder Selina made the difficult decision to secure the initial loan against her family home. As a mother of three, it was a considerable personal risk, but one she believed was worth taking in pursuit of a practice built around the values she and her business partner shared.

Today, the practice stands as a shining example of female entrepreneurship in action. Through determination, expertise and a commitment to their values, the two business owners have successfully grown Chalkland Vets into a thriving veterinary practice with locations in Chippenham, Melksham, Corsham and Calne, while remaining true to the principles that inspired them from the very beginning.

As women leading a business in a highly skilled and demanding profession, they have demonstrated that success is built not only on knowledge and capability, but also on empathy, communication and a genuine commitment to people. Those qualities are evident in every aspect of the practice.

From the outset, their goal was simple: to create a veterinary service where pets receive the highest quality care and where clients feel supported, informed and valued. They wanted the freedom to spend time with owners, to



listen to concerns, to discuss treatment options fully and to build long-term relationships that extend far beyond a routine appointment.

That personal approach continues to set Chalkland Vets apart.

Above all else, the founders share an unwavering passion for animals. Every patient that walks through the door is treated with the same care, compassion and attention they would give their own pets. This philosophy has shaped a practice culture that places kindness at its heart, ensuring both pets and owners feel welcome from the moment they arrive.

The founders are also passionate advocates for wellbeing within the veterinary profession. They recognise the emotional demands placed on veterinary teams and have worked hard to create a supportive workplace culture where mental health is prioritised. For Selina, the issue is particularly personal, having lost her father, a veterinary surgeon, to suicide when she was just nine years old. That experience has strengthened her commitment to supporting colleagues and raising awareness of the challenges faced by those working within the profession. At a time when veterinary professionals are increasingly under public scrutiny, the founders believe it is important to remember that vets are compassionate, dedicated people who enter the profession out of a genuine love of animals and a desire to make a difference.

Transparency is another cornerstone of the business. The practice endeavours to discuss costs at every stage of treatment and prides itself on offering honest advice. Integrity is not simply a value displayed on a wall; it is embedded in everyday decision-making. The team believes in recommending only what is genuinely in the best interests of each pet, creating trust that lasts for years.

The founders' connection to the local community also remains a defining feature of the business. As independent practice owners, they are deeply invested in the areas they serve. Their commitment extends beyond providing veterinary care; they are building lasting relationships with families and becoming a trusted part of community life.

This focus on continuity of care is particularly important. By being open six days a week and providing access to a 24-hour emergency service, Chalkland Vets ensures support

is available whenever it is needed. Clients benefit from seeing familiar faces who know both them and their pets, helping create a sense of reassurance and consistency that can be difficult to find elsewhere.

The success of the business would not be possible without the dedicated team who share the founders' vision. Creating a positive workplace culture has always been a priority, with an emphasis on ensuring staff feel motivated, valued, supported and rewarded. By investing in their people, the founders have cultivated an enthusiastic team united by a common purpose: delivering exceptional care.

As this Women in Business feature celebrates female leadership and achievement, Chalkland Vets offers an inspiring example of what can be accomplished when expertise is combined with purpose. The practice was founded not simply to provide veterinary services, but to create something meaningful for the community, for clients and for the animals entrusted to its care.



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