

me and my...

Celebrity vet **Dr Scott Miller** and his dog **Betty**

Scott has appeared as the resident vet on ITV1's *This Morning* for the last five years. He tells us about life with his Border Terrier Betty

Q What prompted you to become a vet?

A As a kid I just loved animals, always taking in local strays and feeding injured wildlife, so it just followed on naturally from there.

Q What was your first pet?

A A budgie called Jingles, which I got for Christmas. I was never allowed a dog or cat as our family went on long holidays, but I managed to get almost every other pet to make up for it!

Q How long have you had Betty, your Border Terrier, and what is her personality like?

A Betty has just turned two and I would describe her as a personable dog. She is just so human – passing other dogs by without a sniff to say “hi”. She is energetic, enthusiastic, loveable and kind.

Q Have you got any other pets?

A We have a cat called Rickets (a stray who followed us home constantly and no one wanted, hence the name), a corn snake called Colin (don't ask!), and a new gorgeous puppy called Dave.

Q What is the most unusual case you have dealt with at work?

A I think cases of dogs swallowing things are just so extraordinary, as you can remove the most unlikely and amazing things out of their stomachs. From babies dummies to billiard balls, earplugs to their own collars... you name it, a dog has swallowed it!

Q You currently work as a vet in Portugal. How does this differ from your practice in London?

A I have set up a small animal practice on the Algarve with two other Aussie vets named VIP Veterinary Surgery. It has been a long, hard process, but we are really happy with what we have achieved. We are seeing mainly dogs and cats, but the volume of animals owned by people here is unbelievable. It's the classic story of the warm hearted Brit moving abroad, and without knowing how it happened, they go from having one animal to seven in the space of three months of being here. There is a huge stray problem, which is very upsetting, but we are working with many local charities to make a difference. The only different animal we have seen is an injured Chameleon named Rambo, who we are now caring for at the practice.

Q You went to Indonesia in 2007 with International Animal Rescue. Can you sum up the experience?

A After travelling 24-hours by land and sea with a group of rehabilitated monkeys, I donned a backpack containing the biggest and most senior of the animals, Raja, with a mammoth task still before us. Trekking through virgin rainforest, deep creeks and steep mountain passes, we finally reached the site of the release. Giving these animals freedom after wretched lives at the end of chains as pets was a euphoric and humbling experience and something I will never forget. ITV1's *This Morning* are broadcasting my journey as a two-part series in October, so I hope you can all tune in and give your support to International Animal Rescue, a truly amazing charity.

Q What three pieces of advice would you give to keep pets happy and healthy?

A Feed them the right amount of good quality food, visit your vet regularly and show them the same love and adoration they offer you.

