

yin&
yang

Tiffany Jacobs & Yoko Clinch

Tiffany, 35, is a night owl and Yoko, 39, an early bird. They work around the clock to help all creatures great and small.

Tiffany

I grew up in the Seattle area and one of my earliest memories was telling Mum I wanted to be a vet — I must have been only four. We always had pets and they were so funny and filled you with so much love I was just driven to understand them better. I also remember looking after baby birds that had fallen out of their nest. So I had an interest in animals from a young age, as well as the outdoors.

At high school I began volunteering at a few wildlife rehabilitation centres. I was also lucky enough to help out at a relatively new vet clinic as part of the curriculum. So I got to see how you could build a practice from the ground up, which complemented my admiration for the hard work my parents had always put into their own business.

After being awarded scholarships in high school for academic and volunteer work, I began university in the States, where I was selected to participate in an accelerated honours pre-veterinary program.

When I was 19 I had an opportunity to come to Australia as part of a study abroad program. I loved Australia and so ended up staying here, studying at Murdoch University and continuing to do volunteer work with wildlife. Once I graduated in 2004 — the same time as Yoko, who was my classmate and who had become a good friend — I did further study in wildlife medicine. I also met my husband Jason, a radiation therapist, and so knew I was definitely staying!

Since 2009 I've been assisting teaching Murdoch veterinary students in wildlife medicine in conjunction with Perth Zoo and Kanyana Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre; I still do work for Caversham Wildlife Park as well.

Owning my own clinic wasn't necessarily on the radar. After vet school, Yoko went off to South Australia. But we'd always stayed in touch and when the Roleystone Animal Hospital came up for sale, it was too good an opportunity to pass up. That was two years ago and, though it's been hard work, we've enjoyed every minute of it. I'm still doing my teaching and volunteering but the great thing about owning your own practice is you can contribute to the local community.

I always admired Yoko when we were studying: she was such a high achiever and you couldn't meet anyone with a better work

ethic. We also had the same values, which translate now into making our practice as homely as possible and building strong relationships with the people who bring their pets here, so that it's a genuine partnership in caring for the animals.

I think where we most diverge is I'm very much an arty-farty, big ideas kind of person. Yoko is more the nitty-gritty, detail-oriented sort. I'm also more the optimist, she's more the realist. She's very pragmatic. On paper it wouldn't look like we'd get on. But we appreciated each other's strengths. And if I can be a little bit airy-fairy at times, Yoko just shows an incredible patience with me. She has the patience of a saint!

Yoko

I grew up in Victoria, British Columbia, and was born to a Japanese mother and a Canadian father. I'm certain I got my hard work and tenacity genes and my rebellious nature from my mother's side of the family and my pride in my work and my sensitivity from my father's side. I've played piano since I was four and crossed from classical to jazz in high school, much to my mother's chagrin. I still play jazz piano with the Oz Big Band.

We weren't allowed pets growing up but I remember my first visit to my aunt's farm in Vancouver when I was about four. I met my first horses and Sylvester the cat and it was love at first sight. After that I told Dad I wanted to be a vet. My mother spent years telling me I should become a doctor or a lawyer but I took every opportunity I could to spend time with animals.

In high school I spent most of my school breaks on my aunt's farm, surrounded by her menagerie. I love the way animals express themselves and how they can make all the day's problems pale into insignificance. I especially love spending time with horses, and paid my way through my bachelor of science in cell biology and genetics by mucking out stables at weekends.

After I migrated to Australia with my Australian husband Adrian, I completed my bachelor of science in veterinary biology and



PICTURE ROBERT DUNCAN

bachelor of veterinary medicine and surgery (honours) at Murdoch, where I met Tiffany.

Although we'd gone our separate ways after uni, Tiff and I stayed in touch and when this place came on the market I asked her to come with me so she could give me her opinion — that's all. But we both loved it the moment we walked in the door and decided we wanted to buy it straight away.

When you go into partnership with somebody, it's essentially a marriage (laughs). We work well together because we don't sweat the small stuff and we value each other's opinions and strengths. I'm forever in awe of Tiff's insights into the arts and her networking panache. That enables her to focus on marketing our business and in the future I'm sure the clinic will double as an art gallery — she's always picking up things to go on the walls!

I also admire Tiff's ability to communicate well and think clearly in difficult situations. That's balanced by her sense of humour. She is selfless and one of the most generous and kind-hearted people I know, and yet incredibly modest.

We're both hardworking, too, and set ambitious goals. But where Tiff is a night owl and gets her big-picture plans then, I'm the early bird who likes to map out the finer points, focusing on the nitty-gritty, back-end stuff. But it all comes down to this: we really love animals and we really love being vets. www.roleystoneanimalhospital.com.au

*'We don't
sweat
the small
stuff.'*

take
FIVE

with
singer
Andrew
da Silva



I LOVE ... the moments in life when you feel connected to God and people. The moments where you can BE love.

I LOATHE ... the terrible crimes committed against children, women and the elderly. I guess like many of us, it just gets my blood boiling.

I WILL ... always be thankful for the good and the hard times because it's brought me here.

I WON'T ... ever claim that I know everything about myself, because I keep discovering new things.

I WISH ... good health, good times and love to you all.

Andrew da Silva stars in *Let's Get it On: The Life and Music of Marvin Gaye*, Regal Theatre, September 1-6, see ticketek.com.au.