

Once Bitten, Twice Tried and I Still Love Being a Vet

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In 2021 I was unexpectedly attacked in my clinic's carpark by a rottweiler that broke my arm and caused injuries requiring extensive surgery and rehabilitation. The dog was eventually put down and the owner fined after the local City Council took the case to Court.

The course of court proceedings extended for nearly two years and a hateful online social media campaign, which attempted to undermine myself and my team, ensued.

The court proceedings and associated vitriol were demoralizing for many people including the New Zealand veterinary community.

I will share this experience, how the physical attack paled in significance to the relentless online attacks and about the impact of these on myself, my team, our community, and veterinary community.

My team and I are so grateful for and humbled by all of the incredible love and support from our community. It is so important that our vet profession stands unified and proud, fulfilling our important role in society caring for animals, people and our environment and that we too are treated with the care and kindness that we extend to our patients, clients and community.