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Kind hearted English couple leave home for Esther Honey

Leaving England and moving to the Cook Islands for two months is not such a hard decision to make. But moving here to work voluntarily might be.

However, veterinarian doctor Ben Clarke and his partner, veterinarian nurse Anna Coe have done just that – they are both working at the Esther Honey Foundation Clinic in Nikao until New Year's Day 2007.

Clarke and Coe join a long list of extremely kind hearted and caring people who voluntarily come to Rarotonga and help the animals here by providing a veterinarian service.

Clarke is Australian and while working in England, he and Coe decided they wanted to do voluntary work and found out about the clinic through the internet.

They packed up and arrived on Rarotonga at the beginning of the week and had a busy first day yesterday, although Clarke says he was expecting it to be so.

Coe and Clarke will also surely get a first hand lesson on fish poisoning something they would never have come across in England.

Neither have travelled overseas for voluntary work but they have already lined up work in Thailand on their way back to England.

One issue that has already arisen at the clinic this week are cat owners who are seemingly dumping new born kittens either on the beach, in rubbish bins or on other people's properties.

If cat owners have problems with kittens they are urged to do the right thing firstly and that is to get their cats neutered and not throw their kittens away.

Animals lovers out there are advised that the Esther Honey clinic has two little kittens available for adoption and can pick up the kittens for free from their base in Nikao.

The clinic is open from Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm and appointments can be made by calling 22336 or 73029. The clinic can be contacted during the weekends but for emergencies only. —

Tara Carr