

The  
**ESTHER HONEY**  
Foundation

*Improving the world for animals...  
One island at a time*



## *One UK Veterinary Nurse's Volunteer Experience*

Dear Cathy Sue,

May 2007

The brief three weeks that I spent volunteering at the Esther Honey Animal Clinic on Rarotonga in April 2007 is something I will cherish. It was a rewarding experience in many ways and one that I am very grateful to have been able to share. I felt that the different levels of experience of our team members blended well, that we worked together efficiently and that we were able to help many animals in a short time. Although I had researched Fish Poisoning before heading out, I was surprised by the severity of the illness and its effect on the animals. With patience, care and time, however, the results were rewarding.

We re-homed several puppies, kittens and cats which provided a great opportunity to interact with and guide local families. A few were not only kind and wise enough to have their own animals desexed but because of the education and guidance from the clinic, they realised how important desexing is for the entire island and were bringing their neighbours' (who were perhaps not so wise) animals to the clinic for spay and neutering. I know that the Cook Islands' community is a different culture and we are all on one big learning curve.

You should be proud of the work that, thanks to you, can continue in Rarotonga. Educating the local community is of the utmost importance. We are all here to make a difference; some do this more than others. Ultimately, we are here to learn from each other and work together.

Rarotonga is a beautiful Island Paradise and the clinic is a saviour to many. I am honoured that I had the chance to be a part of The Esther Honey Foundation's work and an opportunity to share my knowledge and tens years of professional veterinary experience. Sometimes, working as a Veterinary nurse in the U.K clinics, you can feel that your potential is limited. Participating in volunteer work in other countries harnesses this feeling and makes you feel content in the knowledge that you did that little bit extra for the animals that need us, as we do them. From a career point of view, as well as from a personal vantage point, I feel empowered and that I am a wiser person for the experience I shared. The animals seemed to be much calmer and content just to be near us craving that small piece of human contact that we could offer. It was a very peaceful place to be.

The clinic manager, Elma, is an angel with all the hard work that she does. Her love for the animals on the island is heart felt. Everyone who chooses to help should be proud to have been a part of something so special.

Kind Regards,  
Kelly Edmett VN

**[www.estherhoney.org](http://www.estherhoney.org)**

**EHF is a 501 (c ) (3) non-profit organization. Donations are deductible to the extent the law allows.**