

## *A global community effort*

### **EHF VET TREK™ Aitutaki 2006**

**Cook Islands News** November 21, 2006

#### **VET TREK helps Aitutaki cats**

London tourist, Rashmi Gajree, was staying at the Pacific Resort on Aitutaki when she learned that a cat who frequented the area had a broken leg. Wanting to help the injured animal, Ms. Gajree contacted the Esther Honey Foundation US headquarters in Oregon and asked what could be done. When the options for getting the injured cat and the Esther Honey veterinary staff together were outlined by EHF President, Cathy Sue Ragan-Anunsen, Ms. Gajree generously offered to donate the airfare for Esther Honey volunteers, Australian veterinary surgeon Chris Barton and Oregon Veterinary Nurse, Natalie Hoepf. The Esther Honey Clinic manager contacted Teariki Numbanga at Air Rarotonga, who kindly offered discounted air fares and Andrew and Moyra McBirney who helped organize the overnight housing and meals at the Tupuna Restaurant.

The Esther Honey Foundation provided the volunteers, drugs and supplies for the VET TREK to treat 20 animals. Each cat was examined and treated for any existing minor health issues, 12 were spayed and 7 were neutered. One cat also received needed eyelid surgery. The cat that Ms. Gajree wrote about was examined by Dr. Barton who determined that the leg had healed, the cat was moving freely and without pain. Ms. Gajree could rest easily thanks to her generosity and the combined efforts of people in the Cook Islands community and others from around the world who care about animals.