



World Society for the Protection of Animals

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## Member Society News

### Vet Visit Benefits Animals in the Cook Islands

The **'happiest time of my life'** is how vet Sally Nixon describes her three months volunteering in the Cook Islands with WSPA member society, **The Esther Honey Foundation.**



**"To work solely for animals who really need your help was such a satisfying experience, and to see the difference you're making every day was something I will never forget,"** Sally said of her trip from September to December last year. "I've never come across animals so loving and loyal, and they really did seem to know that we were doing everything we could to help them."

Sally treated mainly cats and dogs during her stint, some stray and some with loving owners who would make vital donations to the Foundation for the treatment of their beloved pet.

"A lot of the dogs that were brought in had been hit by a car and needed urgent treatment," she said. "Another major problem was dogs poisoning themselves by eating certain fish that had washed ashore.

"Once we had treated these animals for their initial injury or illness, we would also sterilise them to help address the overpopulation of stray dogs in the region."

Sally, who even wrote a weekly pet care column for the Cook Islands News during her stay, said the locals genuinely loved their animals and showed great interest in their welfare.

**"We were able to find a loving home for every single stray animal that came in to the clinic, rather than us having to release animals back on the streets once they had been treated,"** she said. **"The Esther Honey Foundation really does a great job helping animals in the Cook Islands, and I have made some wonderful friends that will always be special to me."**

Sally plans to return to the Pacific to again volunteer her much-needed services.