

MAYSTREET PRODUCTIONS & ANIMAL PLANET CANADA FILM EHF & RARO DOGS for DOCUMENTARY



The Esther Honey Foundation Animal Clinic volunteers recently spent an exciting week working with Canada's **Maystreet Production Company** who flew to the Cook Islands to film the foundation's Animal Clinic program and the Rarotonga dogs for an **Animal Planet Canada** documentary. Maystreet President, Hilary Pryor and Vice President, Erin Skillen contacted the Foundation earlier this year about

participating in a programme, 4 months in the making, that highlights feral animals and selected animal welfare agencies from around the world.

EHF President and CEO, Cathy Sue Ragan-Anunsen, says, "We are honoured to be among those organizations whose work on behalf of animals in peril will be featured. Maystreet and Animal Planet have the ability to draw global attention to the plight of island nation dogs in general and to educate millions about the unique gentle nature and keen intelligence of the Rarotonga dogs in particular. We are eager to see the island animals and our extraordinary volunteers at work when the program airs later this year."

When Hilary, Erin and her crew arrived and began filming, all of our volunteers, including Clinic Manager Elmah McBirney, just fell into their everyday roles. Of course, the real stars and focus of the program were the island's animals. We spent many hours on the beaches, filming homeless dogs in their natural setting. We successfully captured a few dogs and transported them back to the EHF Animal Clinic to be spayed or neutered. That our team also successfully rehomed these lovely dogs made a great story for the documentary." The island's felines were not to be ignored during filming. One local man called to ask if we would come to his village to capture and sterilize 12 feral cats that he had been feeding. We were impressed with his responsible attitude and his request provided a great opportunity for the film crew to document the diversity of animal welfare activities that EHF undertakes on a daily basis.



EHF is also conducting the county's first scientific canine population census. We hope that one of the results of this documentary will be additional community support for **EHF's VET TREK@RARO**, a mass spay/neuter programme designed to stabilize the island's dog population and decrease, if not eliminate, the number of homeless dogs on Rarotonga." Following the release of the production, EHF will host a movie evening for the community.