

Paws & Claws Cat Sanctuary

Calling all animal lovers! Spend some time at this inspiring home-grown cat sanctuary, cuddle some cuties and learn about various initiatives ensuring the well-being of unwanted feline fur babies today and into the future.

If you're a cat lover and you're in Rarotonga, this is a 'MUST' visit!

The story of this sanctuary, which opened in 2022, is nothing short of inspiring. Two cat lovers, straight-shooting ex NZ security-guard (now sanctuary manager) Shannon Paul and Don Carlaw, one of Raro's most successful yet humble businessmen, met through chance ... and the rest is history.

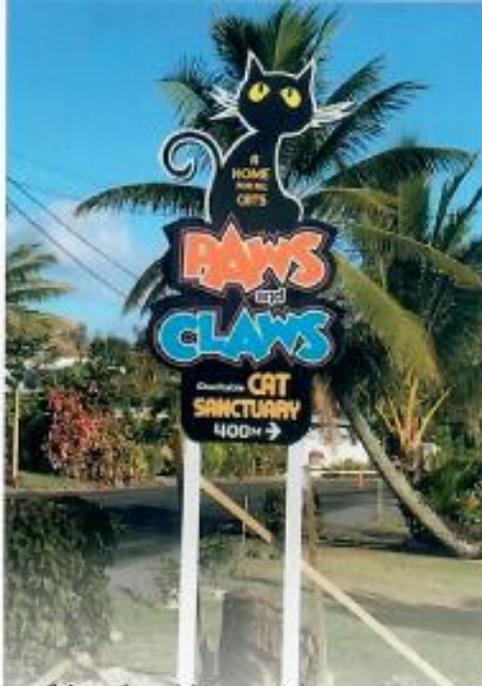
Together they birthed the idea of a sanctuary to help all the unwanted feline fur babies on the island. Through the hard work and commitment of Shannon, plus the wonderful financial support from Don, the Paws and Claws Cat Sanctuary opened 1st August 2022.

In 2023 Shannon and Don formed a committee, whose members now run the marketing aspect of the newly formed Paws and Claws charity. Seven days a week however, Shannon is still the sole 'hands-on' person at the sanctuary, and she welcomes willing volunteers to help her with daily chores looking after the cats and kittens.

The sanctuary started out with 38 cats, over Christmas 2022 numbers grew to 99. Through education, the adoption service and a hugely successful desexing programme, numbers are currently down to a more manageable scale.

Shannon says "Our aim for the future is that through education and the long-term desexing programme, the sanctuary won't be needed!"

Thanks to Shannon, Don and their dedicated committee, various initiatives are in place – education in primary schools, adoption service to local families, foster



programme of older cats needing a loving home (open to workers on 2-3 year contracts who miss their own pets back home), regular free on-site desexing clinics every second month, and a hut at Saturday's popular Punangi Nui market (hut 10), which sells the sanctuary's branded hoodies and tee shirts (with soon to come cups and hats). Items for sale are well-priced, with all funds made at the markets ploughed back into the sanctuary.

"By selling at the market, this helps fund our huge food account and desexing programme."

The sanctuary works with Te Are Manu, the island's sole veterinarian clinic, who check any new cats and kittens before they go to their safe haven with Shannon at the sanctuary.

"On Sundays, we have a special "Cuddles 'n Hugs" day, when visitors can come to the sanctuary between 11.30am to 2.30pm, and have a cuddle with our cats and kittens. By having this open day, it helps get information out there about the sanctuary, and visitors really enjoy their time here. They can even have a photo with Dotty, our friendly Facebook cat. So it's a win all round!"

With huge ongoing food and vet bills each month, Paws and Claws gratefully accepts financial donations, as well as cat food, bedding and indeed anything which will help them to help these beautiful feline fur babies.

Paws and Claws is located near KAPS supermarket in Matavera on the east coast, and is open most days. The special weekly "Cuddles 'n Hugs" open day is Sunday's 11.30am – 2.30pm. To arrange your visit, or if you wish to volunteer, contact Shannon on +682 58469, or contact the sanctuary via its Facebook page.

Note: If you're visiting the sanctuary by bus, just ask your driver to drop you off at KAPS, and look for the big Paws and Claws sign.



Please do NOT Feed the Dogs or Cats

Dogs in Rarotonga

Their lineage goes back hundreds of years to the Polynesian migrants who brought the dogs with them.

Dogs are an integral part of life here in Rarotonga

In fact, most homes have two dogs and they are usually important members of the family.

They are considered "wandering dogs", not "stray dogs"

And being free range (not tied up), they wander around and give the impression that they don't belong to anyone.

The dogs are generally friendly and non-aggressive

They are more than happy to sit, swim and walk with you. After all, what you are doing is more interesting than sitting waiting for the family to come home.

Inviting dogs back to your room or villa - a no no!

Many people enjoy their company, BUT if you take the dog back to your room or villa and feed or encourage it to stay, you jeopardise their lives and their relationship at home.

Then a problem has been created for the dog

Once you leave, they are then left bewildered that you have gone. They have no food, no shelter and they are waiting for YOU to return. They are now in effect, homeless! A problem has now been created for the dog when there wasn't one before.

Please don't feed the dogs, DONATE instead!

Te Are Manu Vet Clinic is charity based. They provide all the vet services on the island; caring for the sick and those needing operations or desexing. Your donation to Te Are Manu will make a lasting difference in their lives, so help us help them. Donations can be made when you check out at the hotel desk... the dogs, cats and other island animals will be forever thankful.

Via website, posted cheque or direct deposit.

www.tearemanu.com

Te Are Manu (Cook Islands) Inc.
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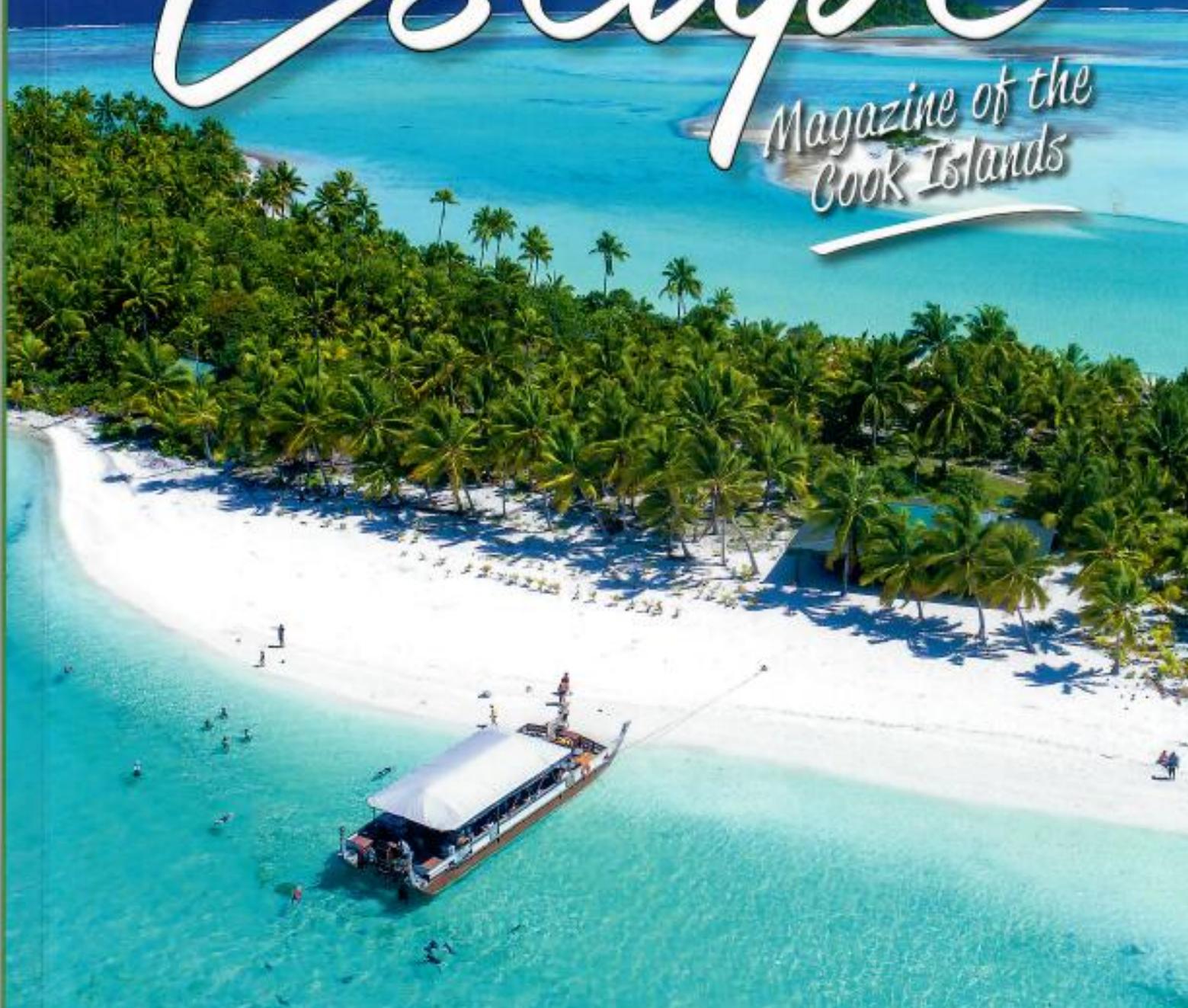
Meitaki Ma'ata!
Thank You!



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Magazine of the
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