

ANIMAL CARE AWARENESS

From Savusavu to Canada - The Adventurous Tale of Peter Pocket

Opinion



Mary-Anne Fiebig

Mary-Anne is a volunteer on assignment with Animals Fiji as part of the Australian Volunteers Program, an Australian Government Initiative.

Peter was a tiny vulnerable kitten that found its way to Animals Fiji Savusavu Clinic.

A concerned member of the public brought the kitten into the Clinic. A stray cat or mongoose had killed his brothers and sisters and the person had nowhere to keep the kitten safe.

The kitten was only a few weeks old – far too young to manage without his mother. Wendy, the dedicated Animals Fiji veterinary technologist and north manager, asked for background information and examined the tiny kitten.

Wendy knew she had clients wanting to adopt a kitten and agreed to look after Pocket until he was old enough to adopt. Wendy initially named the kitten Pocket as he was so tiny he could fit into her pocket.

Pocket's adventure begins

So Pocket and Wendy's adventure began! Pocket only weighed 300 grams, the size of a chocolate bar! He was so young and needed his mother's milk and even with careful feeding and care Pocket started to lose weight.

"When kittens and any animal are away from their mother so young, they miss the essential nutrients that only a mother's milk can provide," Wendy said.

"So it is extremely hard to keep the small animal alive and well and sometimes they don't survive."

Wendy spent anxious hours monitoring him, keeping him warm and feeding him small amounts continuously.

Pocket survived - all due to Wendy providing dedicated and expert care.

Pocket, a spirited kitten, started gaining weight and nothing could stop him from being active and mischievous.

Wendy renamed Pocket to Peter, after Peter Parker who is Spiderman, as the kitten climbed up and over everything. Pocket became Peter Pocket or Peter for short!

Peter became a star attraction at the clinic, charming everyone.

He even travelled with Wendy to outreach appointments in the Northern Division. The older Peter became, the taller and faster he



Peter Pocket in Canada.



Peter Pocket with Wendy in Fiji.

was, exploring everything around him.

Once, during a meal, his curiosity got the best of him. With a mischievous leap, he landed in a bowl of soup Wendy was about to eat. Immediately he leapt out straight into an icy cold drink!

Thank goodness for quick thinking and immediate action! Wendy rushed her little kitten to a safe place and ran his tiny paw under cool water, followed by a soothing ice treatment.

"The burn wasn't very severe," Wendy said.

HERE ARE SOME ESSENTIAL TIPS IF YOUR PET EXPERIENCES A BURN:

- Safety first: Remove your pet from the source of the burn.
- Cool it down: Gently run their paw under cool water for a few minutes.
- Ice it: Apply a cold compress to reduce swelling.
- Seek veterinary care: Consult a vet for proper assessment and care, no matter how minor it seems.
- As always, do not treat your animal with human medications or painkillers as they can harm your pet.
- If the burn persists or the injuries appear to get worse, contact your local Animals Fiji Clinic for advice and help.

Contact the Savusavu Clinic at (+679) 998-6253 or the Nadi Clinic on (+679) 993-6647 or visit the Animals Fiji website at www.animalsfiji.org for details about their clinics and

ter to Canada where Jolene lives. This way Wendy will be able to visit whenever she is home in Canada and give Peter cuddles.

"I am going to miss Peter terribly, but I know he is going to be in capable hands and going to get many cuddles and playtime with Jolene and her other cats," Wendy said.

Wendy prepared Peter for his trip by ensuring he received all the necessary vaccinations and arranging for his safe travel.

Exporting pets

If you or a friend need to arrange for the export of your pet, Animals Fiji have the knowledge and experience to help.

Please do not hesitate to contact us for further information.

Animals Fiji helps animals all around Fiji, with vet clinics in Savusavu, Labasa, Nadi, and Lautoka and they also hold outreach clinics in other areas.

The Nadi clinic also has a shelter and place for animals to stay, to show they care about animals' total well-being.

This story shows how Animals Fiji and kind-hearted individuals make a big difference in the lives of animals in need.

If you want to support Animals Fiji and help these animals, you can do several things.

You can choose to adopt an animal from our Nadi Animal Shelter, maybe offer a temporary home as a foster carer, or sponsor an animal already in the shelter waiting for a forever home.

If you prefer, you can make a donation that will help all the animals receive the medical care and attention they need.

Simply contact the Savusavu Clinic at (+679) 998-6253 or the Nadi Clinic on (+679) 993-6647 or visit the Animals Fiji website at www.animalsfiji.org for details about their clinics and services.

We would love your help in making a difference for these animals.

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Mary-Anne Fiebig
Animals Fiji volunteer

"But it did leave Peter a little uncomfortable, needing extra cuddles and care."

As a veterinary nurse, Wendy knew exactly what to do. But, if this happened to your pet and accidents can happen to any pet, knowing what to do can save the day!

From Savusavu to Canada

Wendy had many offers from people wanting to adopt Peter. But her sister, Jolene, who lives in Canada convinced Wendy to let her adopt him and now Wendy has taken Pe-