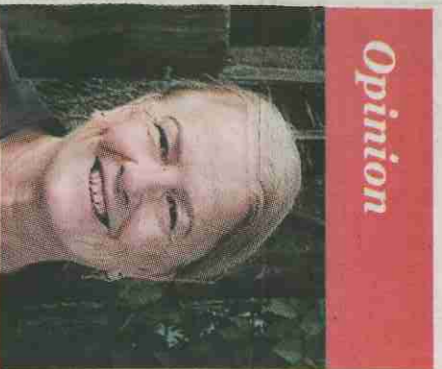


LEO'S INSPIRING TALE

# Overcoming Challenges with Courage



Mary-Anne Fiebig

Opinion

Mary-Anne is an Australian volunteer with Animals Fiji. She is the organisation's marketing specialist, based in Savusavu. As part of her volunteer scope, she is writing a series of articles related to the work that the organisation does and promotes, more specifically in the North. The views expressed are of Animals Fiji and not of Fiji Sun.

In a story that went from heart-wrenching to heart-warming, Leo, a seriously injured dog, has beaten the odds and become a symbol of strength and hope.

Despite enduring horrific injuries, Leo held on to life, thanks to the quick and caring help of a kind person. This touching story shows how kindness, good veterinary care, and an animal's strong spirit and will to live can make a big difference.

Leo's tough journey started when he was found badly hurt, with a missing leg and a serious shoulder wound. Wendy Kane, who takes care of animals at Animals Fiji North, was shocked by how hurt Leo was. She wondered how he even survived.

"Leo had lost so much blood, I don't know how he was still alive," she said. Wendy's first job was to make sure Leo's body was stable so he could have a chance to recover before she dealt with his wounds.

During this critical time, Wendy received help from Dr. Ashitosh Kumar (Dr. Ash), a vet at Animals Fiji Clinic in Nadi. Dr. Ash gave Wendy clear directions on what to do to help Leo. With Dr. Ash's help, Wendy carefully treated Leo's severed leg and closed his shoulder wound. The teamwork of the Animals Fiji group, including Wendy, Dr. Ash, and vet assistant Luisa, played a large part in Leo's journey to healing.

"I wasn't sure he was going to make it," Wendy said, "but he wanted to stay alive, and he was waiting for me the next morning." Leo was strong and determined to beat the odds.

Leo found a new home with Tui Olsson and his sister Beatrice. They took care of Leo with love. Leo got along well with George the dog, Tiger the cat, and three energetic roosters in the Olsson family. Known as 'Bear' in the community, Tui renamed him 'Leo' to reflect how brave and lion-hearted he was. Leo's happy recovery continued as he got used to life on three legs. Beatrice was amazed by how well Leo moved and how joyful he was. She called him a "loving and wonderful dog" who played with other dogs and had fun. Leo's journey shows that animals can have a great life even when they face challenges. Leo's story reminds us of the good



Leo healing after surgery with his new owner Beatrice.



Leo on the beach enjoying a full and happy life.



**Animals Fiji**  
Building a lifeline for animals

Animals Fiji logo.

in people and the power of good veterinary care. His impressive recovery inspires us to care for all animals and shows how important organisations like Animals Fiji are.

These groups work hard to help animals like Leo and make their lives better.

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 ani-

mals' total well-being.

If you want to help them, you can contact the Savusavu Clinic at (+679) 998-6253 or visit their website at [www.animalsfiji.org](http://www.animalsfiji.org) for details about their clinics and services.

Leo's special journey from tough times to courage shows how kindness, determination, and good care can make big changes. His story reminds us that together, we can make a big difference in animals' lives when they need it most.

Photo credit: Inoke Rabonuu@fujisun.com.fu