



ANNUAL REPORT

2019



OUR MISSION

To improve the welfare of all animals - domesticate & wildlife - resulting in better lives for both the animal and humans of Fiji, while helping to build a society without animal cruelty.



FIJI: Animals Fiji (operated by West Charity Trust Society), Fiji Charity Reg. # 889 / TIN # 60-34707-0-3.
USA: Animals Fiji – USA, 501 (c)(3) registration, EIN # 81-5449045.
AUSTRALIA: Animals Fiji, NSW Charitable Fundraising Authority, CFN/22572.
(Animals Fiji is registered with GuideStar, the world's largest source of non-profit information.)

THANK YOU! DHANYAVAAD! VINAKA VAKA LEVU!

This annual report serves to summarize the year that has been for all of our supporters and sponsors. Each year it reviews our progress and the work we still have ahead. It is also an opportunity to say thank you for your contribution to our success in 2019. We aren't able to name every single person or organization that has contributed, but we are extremely grateful. On behalf of the entire Animals Fiji team - thank you, vinaka vaka levu, & dhanyavaad!!

We look forward to your ongoing support!

WHAT'S IN THIS REPORT

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FROM OUR CO-FOUNDER AND MANAGING TRUSTEE

2019 was officially our 8th year operating since becoming a charity. It finally feels like there is a positive change in the wind with attitudes towards animal welfare--not only internationally, but more importantly domestically.

Some things we have been plugging away on for many years have finally come to fruition. Boxes on the to-do list were checked off and we are continuing forward with our mission. This does not mean we are anywhere near completing our goals, but with each year we get closer.

It is important we take stock each year and reflect back on what we have done, so we can continue--together--to grow and improve. I'd like to take this time to sincerely thank all those that have been a part of helping us help the animals through donations, time, avocation, and much more.

On behalf of the entire Animals Fiji team -

VINAKA VAKA LEVU!

Casey

ACTIVE FIJI TRUSTEES

Casey Quimby

Amanda Sofield

USA BOARD

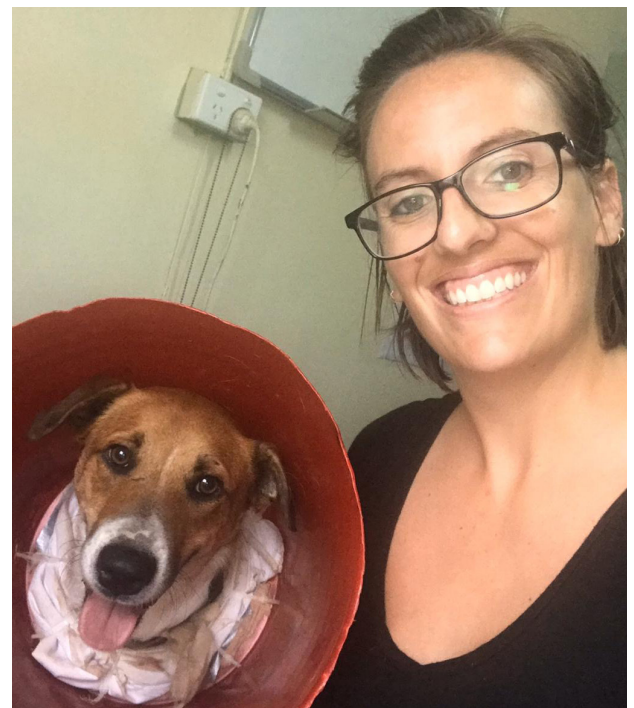
Casey Quimby

Gina Paladini

Amanda Sofield

AUSTRALIAN FUNDRAISING AUTHORITY

Julie Hoskison



2019 IN NUMBERS

2019 saw a record number of surrenders, doubling from the previous year. Despite the largest amount of adoptions in our history, we still have a limited capacity for care.

Hence our proactive focus on preventing unwanted animals from even entering this world to a life of suffering through offering more outreach clinics than ever before.

Animals Fiji only euthanizes as an absolute last resort. We never euthanize once an animal has been accepted into our shelter, unless it is for medical reasons. We also may euthanize animals that come to us with traumatic injuries or illnesses that we aren't able to treat or those that are severely aggressive and we can't safely release back into the community.

DOGS

Sprayed
& Neutered



1407

CATS

Sprayed
& Neutered



485

PIGS

Neutered



2

GOATS

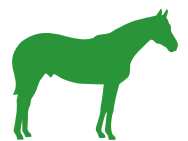
Neutered



13

HORSES

Gelded



9

5981

Animals helped
in 2019

190

Adopted from
our shelter
in 2019

26

Outreach Clinics
completed
in 2019

NEWSWORTHY EVENTS & TRIUMPHS

PARAQUAT BAN

In October, the Minister for Agriculture announced the complete ban on the sale and use of paraquat in Fiji from the 1st of January 2020. Paraquat has been one of the largest causes of death for animals in Fiji. In 2017, we started our petition to ban the harmful chemical, receiving over 11,000 signatures. We are elated at this announcement and grateful to the Fiji Government.



AFFORDABLE DESEXING

We streamlined our desexing pricing ensuring we keep every spay and neuter surgery at an affordable subsidized rate. This is possible thanks to your donations. The cost per cat and dog to Animals Fiji is between FJ \$150-200. We use donations to subsidize it to just FJ \$45 (approximately US \$20 / AU \$31 / NZ \$33) for the public. We also still have our welfare rate of FJ \$25 (approximately US \$11 / AU \$17 / NZ \$18) for those on government welfare. Animals Fiji even offered specials for Mother's and Father's Day, offering all desexing at FJ \$35.

NEWSWORTHY EVENTS & TRIUMPHS

FARM VISITS

Word of mouth is spreading and it is allowing us to assist more large and/or farm animals with our veterinary services.

Goats are much more common to now see at our clinics and we are undertaking more farm visits in both the Northern and Western Divisions.



AFFORDABLE DESEXING

Our gelding (male horse castration), which costs Animals Fiji on average of FJ \$350, is offered at the subsidized rate of FJ \$150.

Again, this is made possible through your donations - **thank you!**

FOSTER FAMILIES

Thanks to our amazing foster families and dedicated staff who stayed on site, we made it through two cyclones in 2019 (Mona and Sarai) unscathed.

If you are interested in becoming a foster carer please contact us.



NEWSWORTHY EVENTS & TRIUMPHS

OUR WILDLIFE

Reports of wildlife in need and animals brought to us for rehabilitation has grown year on year at Animals Fiji.

This year brought to the surface more reports of animals being abused and neglected. Examples such as our native parrots, being kept illegally in captivity. Animals Fiji does not have the jurisdiction to prosecute or investigate cases such as these.

We have and can assist with veterinary care and forensic reports, but **ONLY THE POLICE** can prosecute. So, please urgently report any cases to your local police station.

You will need to bring evidence such as photographs or videos of the perpetrator so they can be charged under the Protection of Animals Act or the Endangered and Protected Species Act.

Please alert the Ministry of Environment on (+679) 3311699 if it is in regards to wildlife in captivity.



CLINICS

In 2019, we finished the year operating four permanent clinics and over 25 outreach clinics. More on outreach in the next section, but here is a wrap up of each of our permanent clinic locations: Nadi, Lautoka, Savusavu, and Labasa.



Animals Fiji Nadi clinic, our first clinic and only location with a shelter attached, continues to be our busiest. It houses our head office--finance department, medical stock management, and human resources. Thanks to the donations and volunteers from Rustic Pathways, 2019 saw the completion and now use of our new Dog Pen 1, which has five spacious apartments with a nice common area, covered concrete, and sunny grass section. This allows us to both accommodate our shelter dogs waiting for adoption and boarding

pets. For 2020, we have plans to build another similar dog pen replacing our basic group housing facility we've been using since 2016.

Over the last three years we have adhered to our strict capacity for care limits in shelter. This has allowed us to use those resources to expand our reach to other locations--in turn helping more animals. It also means we can better meet the needs of animals at our facility. It creates the conditions necessary to provide shelter animals with the Five Freedoms, thereby improving the welfare of individual animals. We are working to prevent animals from even having to come into shelter through desexing, more specifically our outreach programs. It is our goal over the next decade to make our shelter and others in Fiji obsolete, so every animal has a caring and loving home.



CLINICS cont'd

Our Northern Division flagship clinic, Savusavu, is now into its sixth year of operation and second year in the location donated by the Naqaqa Giving Foundation. From here we service the Labasa area monthly, made possible through the space provided by the Ministry of Agriculture. Our Northern based team ensures that Vanua Levu has veterinary services for their pets and farm animals alike.



Animals Fiji deals with the bare minimum diagnostic tools. Over the years we have chosen to put our resources to expanding our veterinary services to a larger area of the country instead of making one of our clinics state-of-the-art. However, as we progress as a charity it is important we expand our resources within our means to help more animals. Our Northern Division team particularly has been doing amazing work with limited resources. We would like to highlight **our Wishlist** needs for a new microscope and longtime desired xray machine. At the end of the year, a group of community members led by Susan in memory of her cat, Fuli, got together to form a fundraising group for an xray machine by December 2020. We are extremely grateful to their endeavour. To donate toward these items please **contact us**.

In March 2019, we closed our Taveuni clinic, as it is now being serviced by a private veterinary clinic. However, we still provided services to those in need and had an outreach visit in November 2019. We are always looking for ways to continue to support the community of Taveuni animals--as we do all animals in Fiji.

Our Lautoka clinic is extremely popular each Saturday thanks to the space provided by Ministry of Agriculture. In 2020, we will be working with Lautoka City Council to expand our services to an additional day a week. Stay tuned for more information on this.

OUTREACH & TNR (Trap Neuter Return)

Outreach started off with a bang in January and February with the participation of the InterContinental Fiji Golf Resort & Spa through their resort/community cat TNR program. The resort also sponsored our desexing clinic at the neighboring Sanasana Village and Natadola Beach areas' cats and dogs.

January and December 2019 also saw our fourth year in a row providing TNR services to the island of Malolo Lailai. Plantation Island Resort, Musket Cove Island Resort, and Lomani Island Resort have been coming together in the name of animal welfare and humane population control since

2016. Each year we are seeing less and less cats meaning progress is being made. In December, thanks to the resorts' support, we expanded the outreach desexing to their neighboring Solevu Village on Malolo Island.

The year also saw our first MOU with a resort, Fiji Gateway Hotel, for humane population control. Our agreement ensures their resort cats are desexed and have a feeding program in place. The program at Fiji Gateway Hotel is then preventing overpopulation, reducing feline nuisance behavior on the property, and engaging in the most humane and cost-effective means of



OUTREACH & TNR cont'd (Trap Neuter Return)

population control. In addition, the presence of the resort cats is a great byproduct for rodent control.

In 2019, we had enormous success after years of persisting and promoting TNR for Fiji as an effective and humane population control. The Fiji Government implemented an eight week TNR program in coordination with the animal welfare stakeholders. Animals Fiji performed 268 spay and neuter surgeries in nine towns/cities of Fiji (Ba, Labasa, Lautoka, Levuka, Nadi, Rakiraki, Savusavu, Sigatoka & Tavua).



Mid year, we held a Golden Coin clinic in the Sigatoka area, hosted by the Tapp family in their home. Each animal was treated or desexed for the cost of FJ \$1 thanks to donations made by local companies--Tappoos, Eco Trax, and Sigatoka River Safari. We spayed and neutered 43 animals in three days with a team of one Veterinarian, one Vet Nurse, and one Senior Vet Assistant.

Outreach clinics in areas surrounding our two major bases, Nadi and Savusavu, were ongoing throughout the year. Ensuring that not only are we covering those far from our clinics, but those unable to travel / transport their animals to our permanent clinics.

Another monumental mark in our history was our first MOU with a town council. After five years of visiting Ovalau to provide basic veterinary care and desexing surgery, Levuka Town Council realized and saw the benefits first hand of TNR. Our presence for the first five years was led by the community, a special thank you to the Ditrich family, Levuka Homestay, and Bumble Bee Seafoods. We visited twice this year (July and December) to work on community education and desexing clinics. Animals Fiji looks forward to our biannual visits to Ovalau with Levuka Town Council in 2020.

As the year progressed, we were extremely appreciative to visitors to Fiji, like Heather and Marshall Ulrich, who were brought to Fiji as a

OUTREACH & TNR cont'd (Trap Neuter Return)

part of television production The Amazing Race. They saw the need for veterinary and animal welfare service in the remote village of Lutu in the interior of Viti Levu. Heather and Marshall sponsored Animals Fiji to travel to the village to have a week of education, desexing, and provide basic veterinary care. Thanks to their generosity, we were able to desex 90% of the dog population and will be returning for a second visit in 2020 to assist with their large farm animals.

One of our last major outreach clinics of the year was in conjunction with Animals Enchanted in Ba. We have been joining our forces together since

2017 to ensure each November we provide basic veterinary care and spay/neuter surgeries to those in the Ba area.

In total, we had 26 outreach clinics throughout Fiji in 2019. There is not enough space or time to mention every single one, but we are extremely grateful to all the community members, tourists, visitors, sponsors, and hosts that help us get veterinary services to those that do not have access. Our outreaches are not one-offs either; all 26 outreach clinics will be visited again in 2020 and hopefully we will add more to the list. **Contribute towards them today.**



EDUCATION & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

In April 2019, we launched our Shelter & Nadi Clinic Tour. Each Wednesday, we offer tours to visitors of Fiji to learn about the biggest challenges for the animals of Fiji, what we are doing to help, and what they can do to help. It also helps us socialise our shelter animals. Plus it's a bonus for tourists missing their pets at home allowing them to pass their love onto puppies, kittens, dogs, or cats waiting for their forever homes. [Click here to find out more.](#)

Visits to Animals Fiji isn't just for tourists. In 2019, we were excited to host a variety of local schools, churches, and community members. We hosted the Nadi Special School and Sunshine Special

School Lautoka, which led to our involvement in their ITP (Individual Training Program) initiative (more on that in the Team section below). Goodnews AOG Church brought their entire Sunday School Program to visit and learn about animal welfare with us. Toward the end of the year, we hosted an Open Day at our Nadi and Savusavu clinics inviting all members of the public to visit us and tour behind the scenes. Allowing everyone to see in surgery, consults, and shelter as well as offering a yummy baked good stand-- thanks to Ella Mae and Karen's Blessings Cafe in Nadi and our very own Brenda and her Grace Cakes in Savusavu.



EDUCATION & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT cont'd

If you live in Savusavu Town, then you might have already met Pilot. Pilot is the beloved stray dog that lives at the bus station. The Savusavu community jointly cares for and feeds Pilot. With the help of Animals Fiji, Pilot has had his forelimb amputated (due to a traffic accident), his transmissible venereal tumor cancer treated, and had his desexing surgery. He regularly visits our Savusavu clinic to make sure he's fit, happy and healthy. Our stray/community animals are the public's responsibility! *"The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated."*- M Gandhi

We also were excited to start working with Fiji National University (FNU) to offer practical experience to their first class of veterinary students and look forward to continuing this in 2020.

In September, we were lucky to have Professional Dog Trainer, Taylor Wheeler, visit Fiji. She offered free dog training through Animals Fiji.

In addition to our outreach clinics, we have been out in the community spreading animal welfare education. We have been empowering



EDUCATION & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT cont'd

the community through our ongoing annual involvement in the ISN Fun Day, monthly stalls at the Vuda Markets, our first annual visit to Kids First DayCare & Preschool, and more.

Animals Fiji has assisted the team at Party & Events Fiji to help bring better safety and welfare practices for the horses at the Sabeto Races for the third year in a row. This year we helped set the rules and regulations for the event. We controlled the health checks and used the opportunity to pass on animal welfare tips to the horse owners, jockeys, and anyone involved on the day. Although horse racing is a controversial

topic, internationally, in Fiji our involvement allows us access to an otherwise closed off niche.

2019 also had our largest local TV presence thanks to exposure on Fiji One's Breakfast Show, Fiji One's Talk Business and the brand new animal focused TV show, The Pet Project - Fiji One. Shania and the team at The Pet Project are bringing knowledge to the greater community of Fiji through the show, which features Animals Fiji and other animal welfare organizations throughout the country.



EDUCATION & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Animals Fiji would also like to make special mention of community warriors, Ben and Barbara Temo. Ben, a retired British army corporal of i-Taukei descent and Barbara, a retired nurse from England met when Ben first started in the army in England and Barbara was still in school. Ben and Barbara were married for 48 years and moved to Savusavu to retire in 2009. Ben and Barbara took pity on the cast aside, roaming dogs and puppies and have been rescuing them ever since. They collect sick and unwanted puppies, nurture them back to health with the help of Animals Fiji, and find good homes for them. We assist their mission by ensuring all puppies are

desexed, regularly dewormed, and vaccinated. Ben and Barbara have helped Animals Fiji with communicating (in i-Taukei) the basics of animal care to the general public, organising outreach desexing programmes, and advertising our charity. In early August 2019, we unfortunately lost Barbara. The entire community of Savusavu and Fiji is at a loss. Despite Ben's heartache of missing his life partner, he is continuing on their mission and is still dedicated to the wellbeing of Savusavu's dogs--and humans. This amazing couple have improved hundreds of lives and are leaving a truly lasting legacy.



GOING GLOBAL

Animals Fiji joined in our first overseas mission in 2019. We assisted Australian Volunteer Program (AVP) with planning, implementation, and gearing their team with their mission of effective and humane population control of dogs on the small island nation of Tuvalu. Veterinarians Sarah and David from AVP did a great job in their month there with such a big task.

For several years we have been assisting owners export their animals and in 2019 we saw a big increase in both our shelter animals being adopted and exported when their adoptive

parents returned to their home country. We also saw an increase in tourist and overseas adoptions. We exported shelter animals and strays found by tourists to over six countries, which included Australia, The Netherlands, Germany, New Zealand, South Africa, and the US.

One particular couple, Ben and Eva, opened up their home to Toby and Neca, in Savusavu on Vanua Levu and flew them all the way to London to join them when they left Fiji.

We love forever homes!



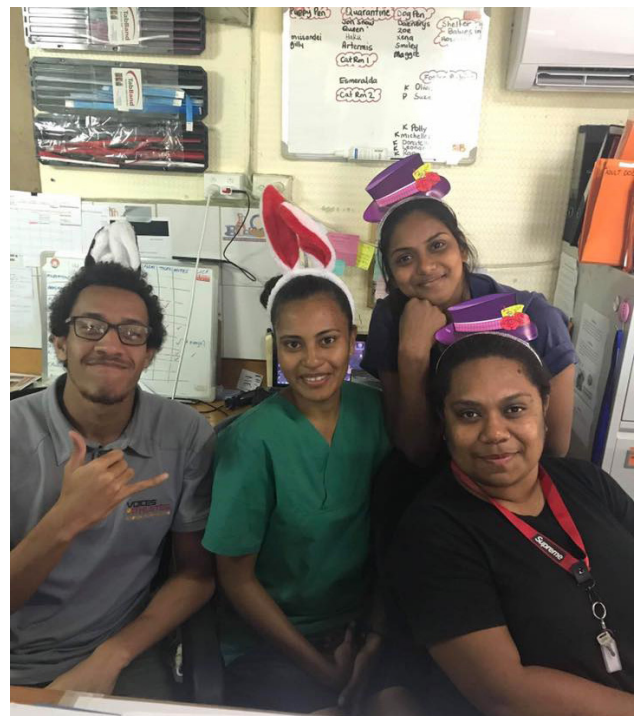
OUR TEAM

Last year we were lucky to have Bec from AVP (Australian Volunteer Program) join us as our Medical Stock Manager & Veterinary Nurse. She has been invaluable to the team and our organization. We were lucky to have her extend her placement to finish the ambitious goals we set. In mid-2020, she will be training up a Medical Stock Clerk to take over the reigns.

In April, we received our second AVP volunteer, Sophia. Sophia took on the role of Shelter Manager & Veterinary Nurse. Her contributions have not only been to our shelter, but to our hospitalized

animals, boarding animals, and professionalizing our entire organization's operation. She will finish her 12 month placement with us at the end of March 2020, leaving behind a legacy of amazing type A personality forms, dedication for the animals, and good sense of humour. For her last few months, Sophia will be training Artika, our Shelter Supervisor, to lead the shelter team.

Through AVP, Animals Fiji was introduced to both the Lautoka Special School and Sunshine Special School and their Individual Training Programs (ITP). We offered work experience to six students



OUR TEAM cont'd

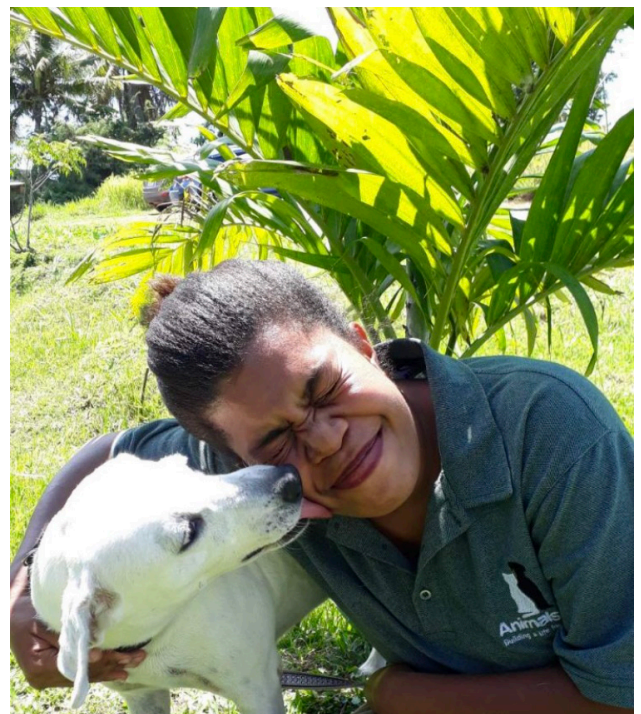
with special needs. By May, we proudly announced that for two of them, Akanisa and Nemani, were both hired as permanent Part-time Kennel Hands at our Nadi clinic & shelter.

In October, we bid farewell to Dr. Nick, who was a jovial personality with a great empathy for animals. As he starts his next journey back to his home of Ireland, the entire team at Animals Fiji wishes him all the best.

We are extremely thankful to Dr. Ashitosh, who has been taking the full weight of being our only

veterinarian in Nadi and Lautoka until early 2020. It has been fantastic to see Dr. Ashitosh, our very own Fijian veterinarian, who joined us in late 2018 blossom. His compassion for animals and desire to always transcend requirements to help is unparalleled. His skills as a surgeon and clinical knowledge, are a great asset to Animals Fiji and Fiji's animals.

Dr. Alex from our Northern Division team celebrated the birth of her first child, Giorgia, in early 2019 and was back from maternity leave in June. Dr. Jeff continues to be a great resource and



OUR TEAM cont'd

support as our most experienced veterinarian consulting with over 50 years experience.

This year saw the launch of our continuing education with two of our team members, Brenda and Sharral, starting their Veterinary Nursing Course through the Australia College of Veterinary Nursing (ACVN). Currently, there is no means to gain veterinary nursing certification in Fiji. When they finish their certifications, they will be internationally recognized and qualified veterinary nurses. We were also happy to announce a big congratulations to our Co-Founder & Managing Trustee, Casey, on completing her year long MBA Graduate Certificate in Shelter Medicine through the University of Florida.

An exciting hire for us towards the end of the year was Ashmita as our Veterinarian-in-training. Ashmita is one of the first graduates

from the FNU Veterinary program. She has been a wonderful addition and is picking up as much knowledge and experience as she can from Dr. Alex and Dr. Ashitosh. The addition of a second certified veterinarian from Fiji is very exciting for our organization and our country. We also welcomed our first Viti Levu Outreach Manager & Project Coordinator, Ollie, who is a Veterinary Nurse from the UK.

Our team is a close vuvale (family) despite the distance between our two bases on Viti Levu and Vanua Levu operating four clinics. We are extremely thankful to those that have joined us in 2019 adding more passion and hardwork for animal welfare in Fiji. VINAKA VAKA LEVU!



VOLUNTEERS

The year had some of the most amazing volunteers from all over the world--THANK YOU!!! Veterinarians, Vet Nurses, Vet Students, and animal lovers alike have really made our 2019 successful. We hope to see you back in Fiji, even if it is just to stop in and say Bula.

2019 was our second year working with VetProject International from Australia. They have been wonderful to have over twice a year for two weeks at a time, bringing over a team of seven veterinarians and one veterinary nurse allowing us to share knowledge amongst our teams and help more animals.



Please email info@animalsfiji.org for more details.

Animals Fiji and Projects Abroad Fiji, an international volunteer organization, signed an MOU in 2019 in the efforts to promote animal welfare and Humane Population Control. The partnerships will help ensure Projects Abroad Fiji international volunteers can assist Animals Fiji at our Nadi clinic & shelter along with outreach clinics.

We are ALWAYS on the lookout for qualified veterinarians and ardent volunteers who would like to join our team. We can promise them a passionate team to work within and a chance to learn the Fijian culture.



FUNDRAISING

We held three major fundraising events in 2019. Our St. Patrick's Day Quiz Night held in March hosted by the Rhum Ba at the Denarau Marina, our third annual golf tournament organized and sponsored by Plantation Island Resort, and our largest annual fundraiser themed the Mad Hatters Fundraiser location sponsored by Vuda Marina's Boat Shed Restaurant & Sunset Bar. These three events totalled to a just under FJ \$65k raised. Donations and fundraising help us to not only continue our operation, but to keep our subsidized services affordable.

Two individually run fundraisers, including our long term supporter, Akshay shaving his infamous beard raised FJ \$2k in just 24 hours. Akshay's shave inspired the shaving of more heads and beards, specifically of Trevor, David, Ryshon, and Dr. Nick at our Mad Hatter fundraiser.

We are also extremely grateful to those that fundraised on our behalf! An example being the Fiji Water staff who selected us as their charity to donate to each year. We are thankful to people like Anne in New Zealand, who for the last seven years has been making dog embroidered towels for craft shows all over Auckland and continues to make and sell her beautiful work, and donate the profits to Animals Fiji.

We are thankful to the AirNZ crew members, Briar, Ally, and Ulla, who found Maggie on the streets of Nadi, fundraised for her and were able to donate enough to sponsor an outreach clinic. We are thankful to companies like Fiji Coffee, who operated a coffee stand at the Fiji Tourism Expo for the last two years and took donations on our behalf instead of taking payment or tips.

SAVE THE DAY

Saturday, 26 September 2020 - Save the Day!

Our largest annual fundraiser. Stay tuned for the location and exciting theme so you can get your costumes ready.



HOW YOU CAN HELP

We are extremely grateful to every single one of you that has helped us in 2019 and in the previous seven years! Animals Fiji cannot do it without you. Each year as we help more and more animals, we need more assistance.

JOIN US IN OUR MISSION

You can help in any of the following ways:

- **Donate!** Visit our website, kindly donated by **Tomahawk Marketing**.
- When buying on Amazon use **Amazon Smile** and select “**Animals Fiji - USA**” as benefiting charity. Amazon will then donate 0.5% of each of your purchases.
- Want to donate goods easily - here is our website **Wish List** or our **Wish List on Amazon**
- Fostering a shelter animal is an incredibly rewarding experience and makes our shelter kittens, puppies, cats and dogs very happy! **Email us today**.
- Volunteer with us! **Please click her for more info**.
- Check out **our website** for more ways to help!

