

Here is Petey!

A wonderful woman drove this common pigeon (rock dove) to us from three hours away. She also drove him back to where he came from when it was time for him to be released.



Michelle Lake has been a certified veterinary technician/nurse over twenty years. She is also a permitted wildlife rehabilitator with the MN Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Michelle enjoys writing and creating children's stories from some of the wild animals she has worked with.



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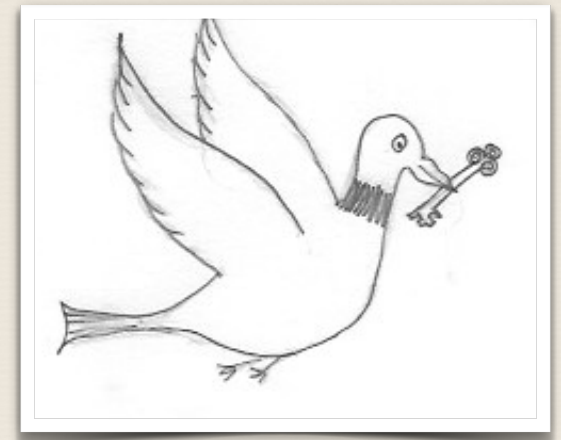
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PETEY'S BROKEN WING



*Story and Illustrations
by Michelle Lake*



Petey is a pigeon who has a job that he loves. He plants trees and flowers with his family of doves. He eats seeds from the ground, which go through his body and fall back to the earth when he goes potty.

Petey was out flying, looking for seed, when along zipped a driver, loving to speed. Then *bam!* Petey struck the hood of the car, tossing the poor pigeon terribly far.

He was horribly hurt, and his wing hung down. It's oh so sad to see a pigeon frown! Petey propped himself up, one wing near the ground, and got up the strength to stumble into town.

He hobbled into a yard for a safe place to sit, when out walked a man whose name was Patrick. Now Patrick is a writer who loves to pen stories. He writes in his garden among his morning glories.

Patrick knelt down and said with a smile, "Well, little fella, you been here awhile?" Petey looked up and tried to lift his wing as if to tell Patrick he needed a sling.

"You're in luck" said Patrick, "for I know a crew that loves to help injured wildlife like you."

Try not to move while I put you in a box. I will call the folks who helped Phillip the Fox."



A driver picked up Petey and took him on a trip to the place where hurt animals go to get fixed. The doc checked him out and took pictures of his wing then moved him to a table and put on a sling.

The nurse bandaged his wing, trying not to hurt a feather. His wings had to be strong to keep him safe in all weather. His sling needed to stay on for two whole weeks, but once he was naughty and out of it he sneaked!

Once the sling was off, it was time to work his muscles, but he had to stay clear of the hustle and bustle. During three months of care, each day he got stronger. Spring was coming, and he wouldn't be there much longer.

With intensive care and lots of flight training, Petey knew he'd fly better, even when it was raining. The joyful day came, and it was time for him to leave. He remembered the first day how much he had grieved.

Patrick got a call from the veterinary nurse. She said, "He's lucky, it could have been worse." The driver took Petey back where he was found, because his home is where he will be safe and sound.



As they drove into the yard, Patrick shouted with joy. "Oh, how long I've waited to see you, 'ol boy! He looked into the box with tears in his eyes and whispered to Petey, "I sure missed you, big guy."

Petey waited and watched just to see Patrick's face, excited to show him no feather was out of place. His wings caught the wind and he took off on his ride. Swooping and flying, he showed off his new glide.

Patrick called out to make one request. "If you wouldn't mind, please stay as my guest. Do you see that big tree in the yard over there? I have built you a home way up in the air."

Petey flew high up to see his new tree house. He could not wait to tell his good friend grouse. He zoomed down to Patrick and started to sing, "The best things have happened from my broken wing!"

Petey once thought he wouldn't make it through, but he found within him a strength he never knew. People came together and that was the key. They helped Petey heal and now he flies free!

