

Chapter 19

Holding a large roundish rock he could barely hold in his paws against a larger flat rock, Cantaloupe ground the leaves, roots, and berries he had collected as directed by Sheila. He added a little water and continued grinding until she was satisfied with it.

“This is one of those times I’m envious of your handpaws, hon,” she said as she gently nuzzled him and then sniffed the paste on the rock. “That smells about right.”

“Where did you learn all this?”

“My grandmother taught me. Bring it in. You’ll need to smear that paste on Pistachio’s burns.”

Cantaloupe scraped the paste onto a large leaf and then carried the leaf into the den. Holding it in one hand paw, he dipped the fingers of his other handpaw in the paste and gently applied it all over Pistachio’s body as Sheila directed. Pistachio squirmed a bit in his sleep but did not awaken. After a few minutes, he seemed to relax and slip into a deeper sleep.

“Now all we can do is wait.”

Posted to Mal, the Malabar giant squirrel Chatter and Telegraph accounts:

It is with a heavy heart that I report to you that Pistachio, who performs for us as our mascot, Mal, has been hospitalized and is in critical condition after being electrocuted while performing in suit yesterday evening at the Canaan Bowl-o-Rama. The suit was destroyed. While we can rebuild the suit, we can’t do the same for Pistachio. Please keep him and his family in your prayers. — Nate Santorum, CEO, Second Fur Mascot Costumes

Posted on the CatamountCon Chatter and Telegraph accounts:

The entire staff are distraught over the news that our Guest of Honor, Rick “Pistachio” Michaud, is fighting for his life tonight after he was electrocuted and burned in a freak accident while fursuited as Mal the Malibar Giant Squirrel. We ask all of you to join us in praying for his recovery. Whether or not he will still be able to attend this year’s con, he remains our main Guest of Honor. We’re all rooting for you, Stash!

One of many replies to CatamountCon’s statement:

Second Fur by Aldin Busheytail

I'm saddened to learn what has happened to Stash. I went to White Mountain State University and joined their furry club. He was the club advisor. When I mentioned I wanted to make my own fursuit, but didn't know where to start, he introduced me to the uni's theater department. Before I knew it, I had added theater minor to my business major, learning costume design from some very talented people. I enjoyed my time with the theater department and I took what I learned from them to create my successful fursuit business. Without Stash, I wouldn't be doing work I love today. About four years ago, I had offered to give him a fursuit in thanks. He declined but asked instead that I come back to the club and teach the current members the basics of fursuit creation. I've been back several times. That's the kind of person he is, selfless, always thinking of others first. I can't think of a better person in this area that the con could honor. Thank you for honoring him and I pray for his speedy recovery.

Stash, I hope you recover quickly.

Ruby Red Panda,
CEO, Red Panda Designs