

# Penguin swims 5,000 miles every year to visit the man who saved his life!



**João says, ‘I love the penguin like he’s my own child, and I believe the penguin loves me.’**

João Pereira de Souza, 71, lives on an island near Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. He is a retired bricklayer but still works as a part-time fisherman. One day, about five years ago, he (1) **found** a tiny, sick penguin on the beach near his home. The penguin’s feathers were covered in oil.

João (2)  sorry for the sick, little bird, and so he (3)  him back to his home. He cleaned him and (4)  him sardines, and he (5)  him the name Dindim. The penguin soon (6)  strong and healthy again.

After a week or two, João (7)  down to the seashore and (8)  to put Dindim back into the water. The penguin didn’t want to go. He stayed with João, getting



bigger and bigger – beautiful new feathers (9)  on his back. Eight months passed. João was very happy. Then suddenly, one day in February, Dindim disappeared. João was sad to lose him, but hoped that the bird just wanted to return to his penguin family. Four more months passed, when suddenly he (10)  a familiar ‘honking’ sound – Dindim was back.

### **So it was, and so it is!**

Every year since then, Dindim spends eight months with João and then disappears for four months. Where does he go? It is thought that he swims 2,500 miles to the coast of Argentina or Chile to start a penguin family and then swims 2,500 miles back to João. That’s 5,000 miles a year to be with the man who saved his life.