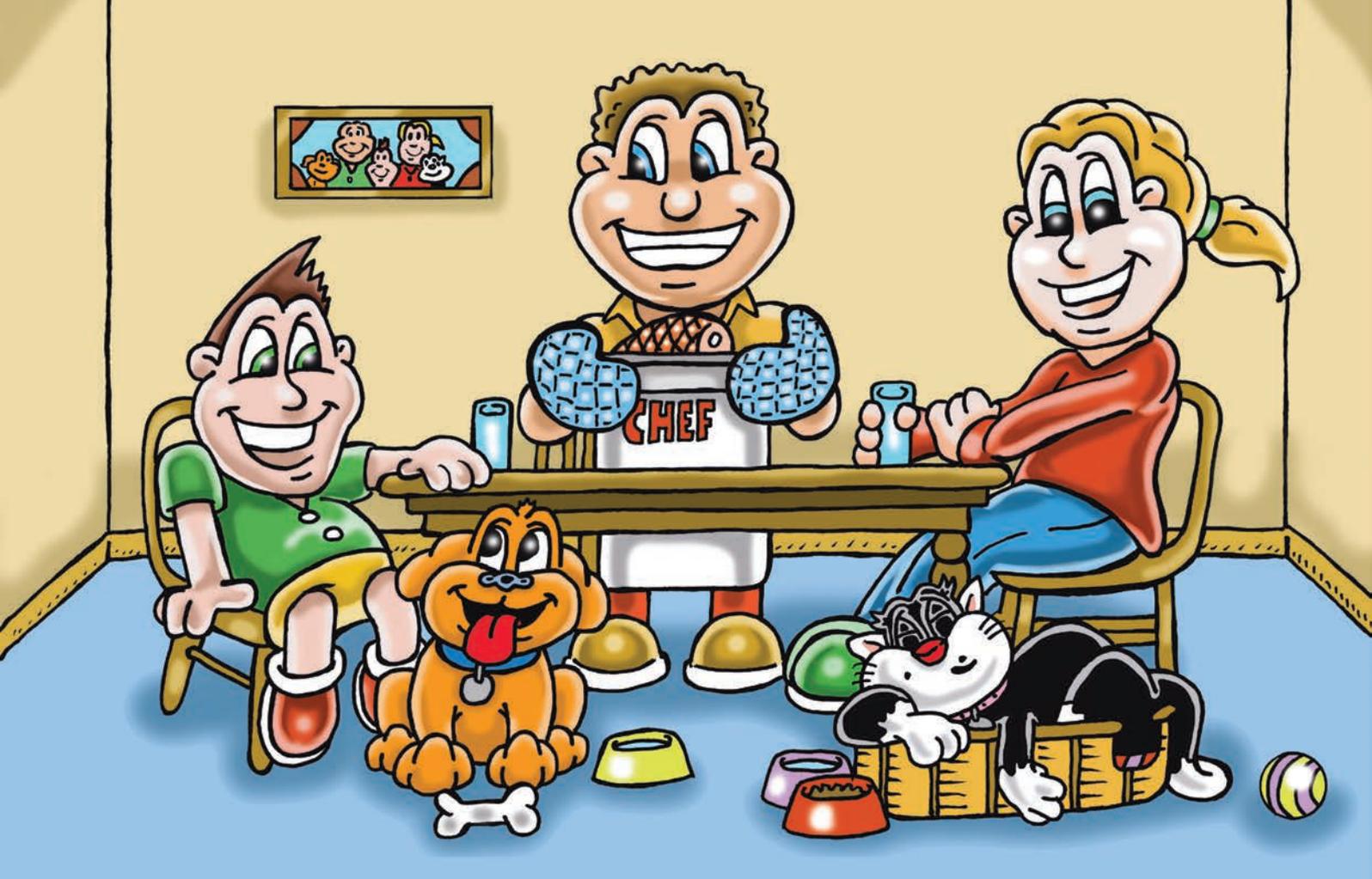


Victor, Victoria and Friends.

Illustrated by Matt Brown



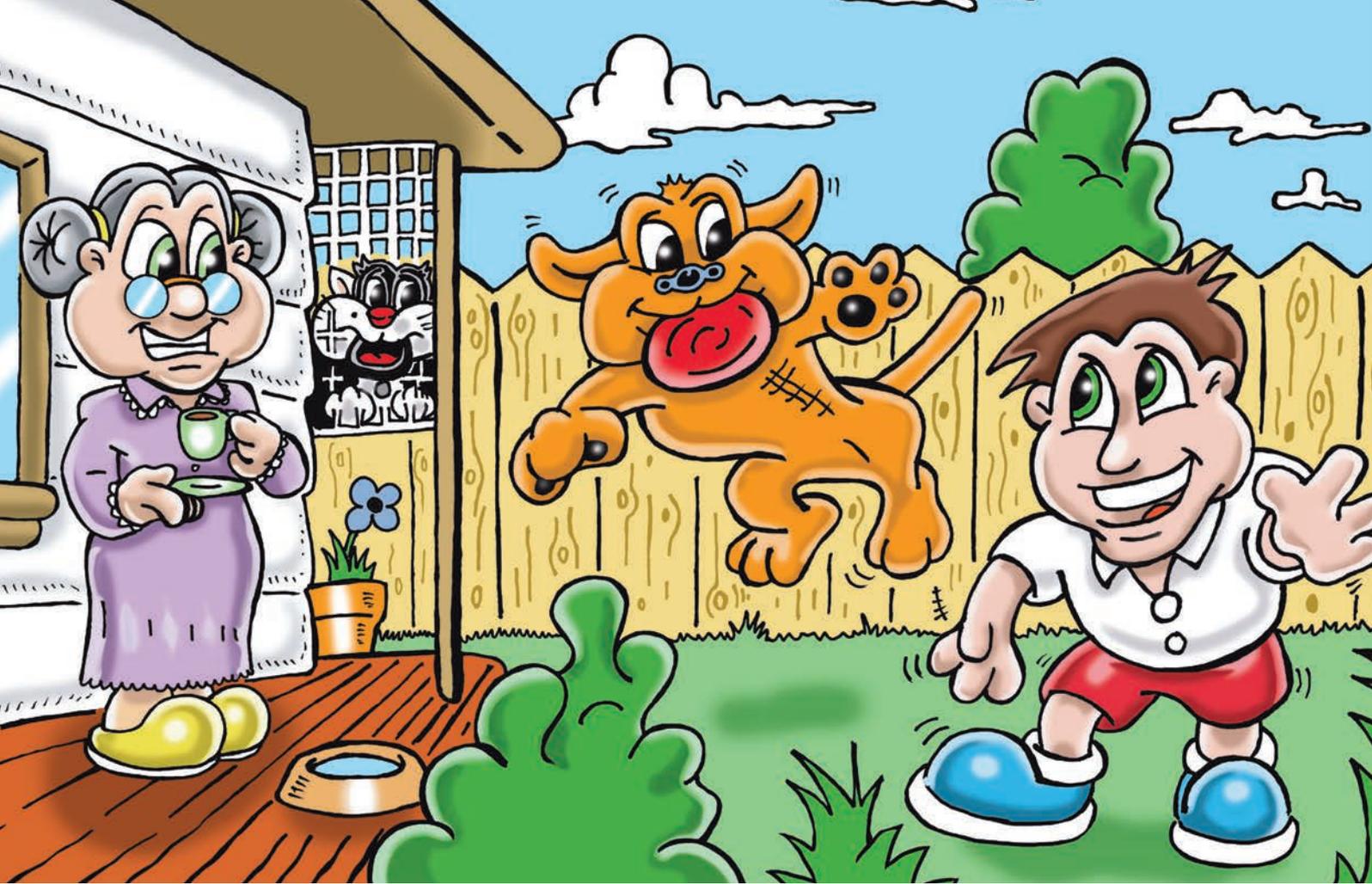
Responsible
Pet Ownership
Education Program



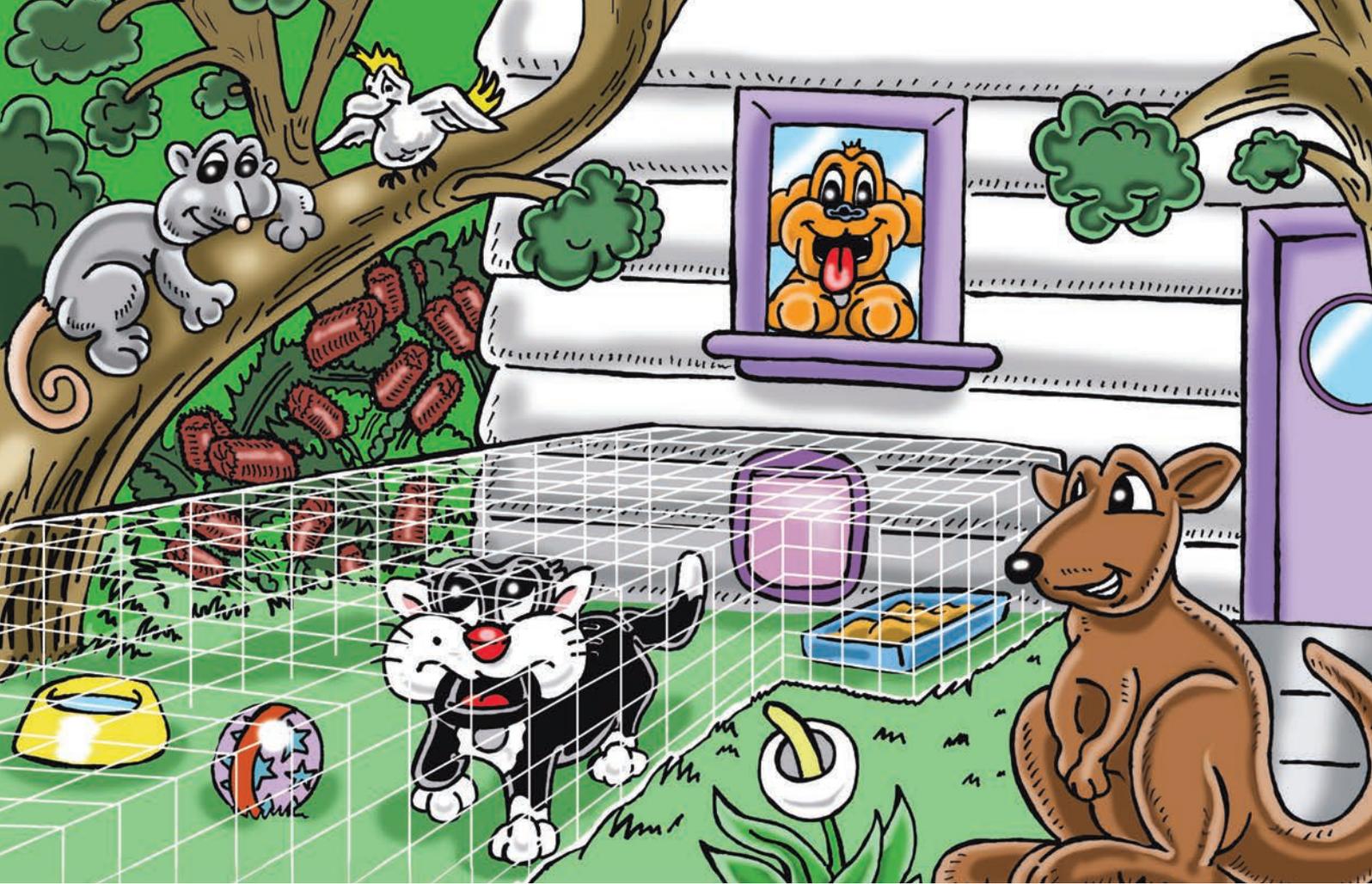
My name is Victor. I am a dog. I live with Sam, his parents and my best friend Victoria the cat.

Sam and his family had been looking for a dog everywhere. They had been to a pet shop, an animal welfare shelter and a breeder. The breeder had just what they were looking for. They fell in love with me and took me home with them.

Victoria and I are happy being inside with the family. There is somewhere comfortable and quiet to sleep, lovely clean bowls to eat and drink from and things to play with. I love my new family.



I really enjoy it when I can go outside in the backyard and play frisbee with Sam. Victoria loves to spend her days outdoors sunning herself in her play area. Sam's grandma loves to come outside to watch. We live near a National Park and we often get animals visiting us in our backyard.

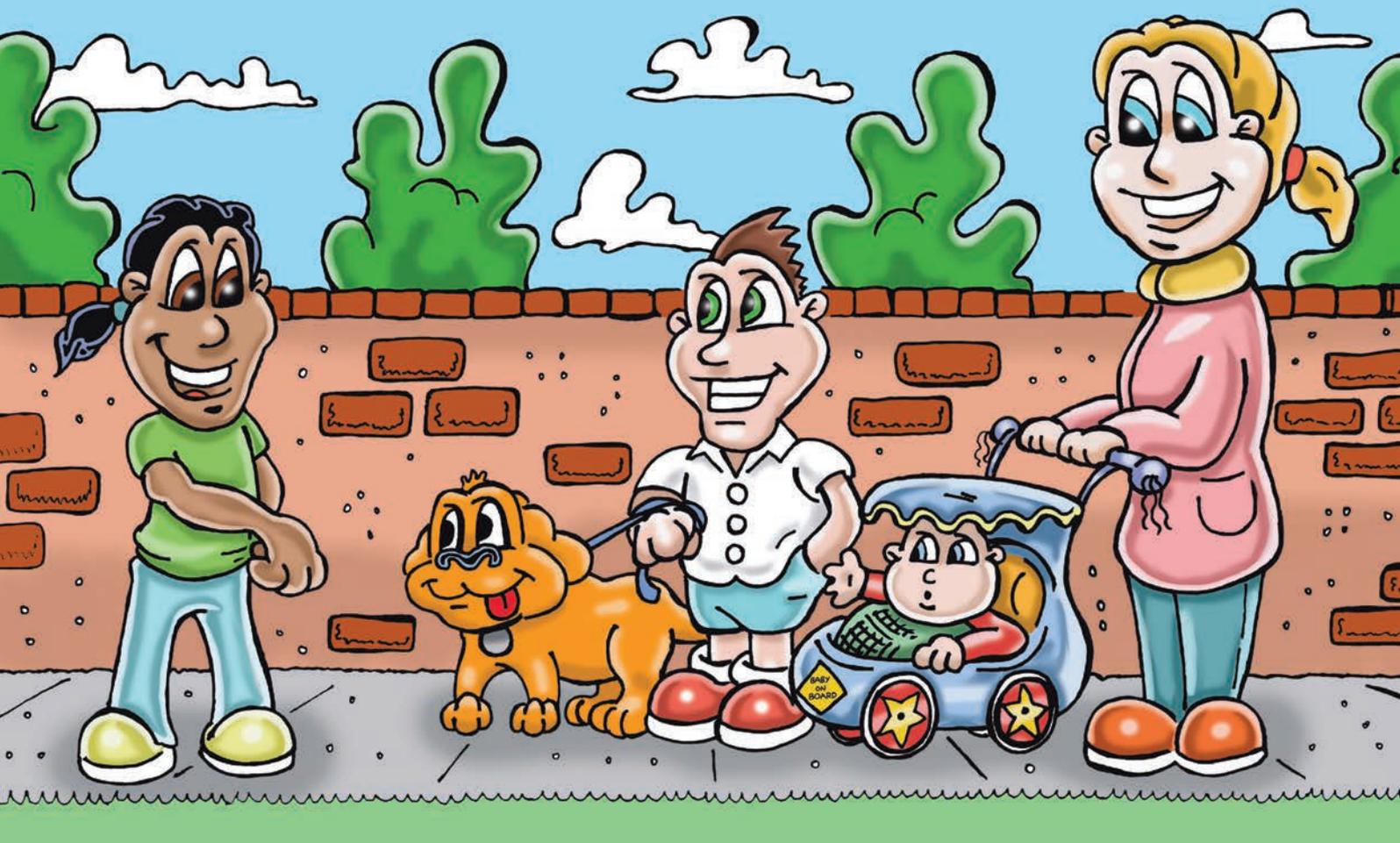


At first, I couldn't understand why Victoria has to stay in her special outdoor enclosure, when I am allowed to run and play in the backyard. Victoria explained that cats are not allowed to roam around because of the native animals that live in the National Park behind our home. She said that some cats and dogs run free in the parks and they kill many native animals. Victoria said that she really likes her own special place. She has a warm bed to sleep in, things to exercise on and toys to play with. She also has her own special entrance into the house.



The day after the family brought me home, I was taken to the vet. I was sitting quietly on Sam's knee when a big dog came bounding through the door like a turbo-powered rocket. Sam was laughing at the dog's owner who was trying to stop him from running.

It was soon my turn, and the vet gave me a thorough checkup and an injection to make sure it was safe for me to be around other dogs. The vet also made sure I had my microchip which has a special number on it. In case I ever get lost, the ranger will be able to read this number and know where I live. Gee I hope I never get lost! Sam's dad had already registered Victoria with the council so he decided to register me straight away.



Now that I have been to the vet it is safe for me to be taken for walks around the neighbourhood. One of Sam's parents always goes with us, as Sam and I are too young to go on our own.

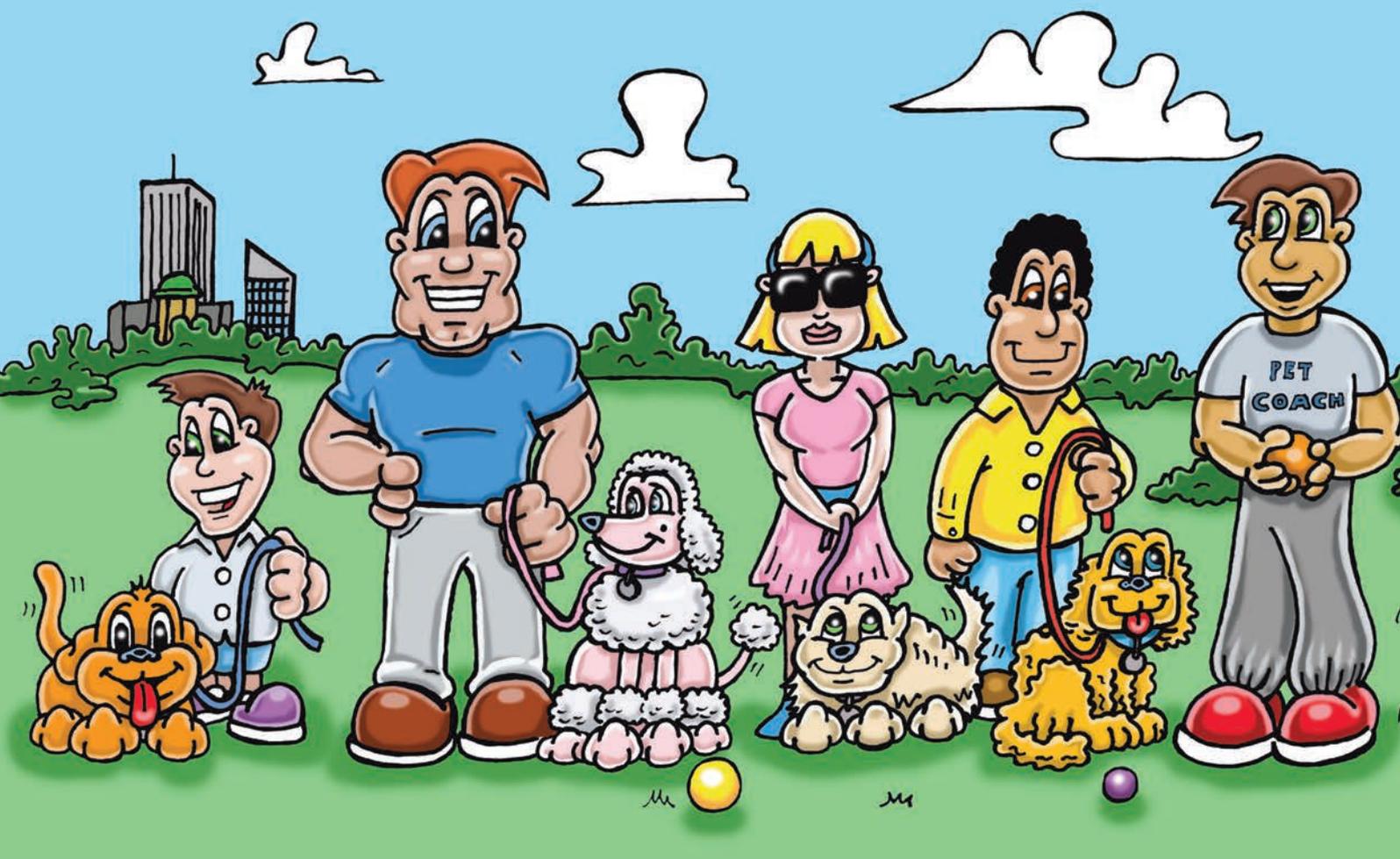
Firstly, they put on my leash, making sure it is on properly and then they check to see if my identification tag is fastened. Some days they put Victoria in her harness and she comes too.

I love to go for walks and smell the strange and wonderful smells and meet the other animals.



One day, while out on our walk, we came to a house with a broken fence. Behind it were some very unhappy animals. There was a dog chained up with no water or food. The backyard was very untidy and unsafe for the animals to live and play in.

Up in a big tree was a mean and scraggy cat. It had feathers poking out of its mouth. I am glad that Victoria has such a great enclosure and that I have a safe and secure backyard to play in.



Each Saturday afternoon I go with Sam to Happy Dog Obedience School and learn all about being a well-behaved dog. I learn how to sit, stay, drop, come and walk on a leash. I know when I have done well because Sam gives me an extra pat and hug. Sam and I look forward to the lessons because it means we can spend time with our friends.



Victoria and I have a wonderful home and family. Each day Sam makes sure that he spends time with us. I really like the holidays because Sam has lots of time to spend with Victoria and me.

These holidays are going to be a bit different, as the family is going up to Queensland to see their cousins. Victoria and I cannot stay home on our own so we are having a holiday at the boarding kennel and cattery.



Sometimes, Sam's adult friend Ling comes to visit. They take Victoria and me for special walks around the shopping centre. Ling and her husband live in a small flat above their shop. Ling has a special pet goldfish, but she doesn't have room for a dog or cat. Ling treats Victoria and I as her pets and we love the extra attention.



Victoria and I both look forward to going for walks with the family. Our favourite walk is along the track outside the National Park. We know that we are not allowed in there, as it is a home for many native animals. They need somewhere safe and secure to live, just like we do.

We love our family. I know they will always look after Victoria and me because they love us too.



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For further information contact

Agriculture Victoria | Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions

475 Mickleham Rd, Attwood, Victoria 3049

Phone: 1800 000 776 Email: vic.pet@agriculture.vic.gov.au

Find pet information and advice on our website

www.vic.gov.au/pets

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