

No Pets Allowed!

by Kathy Wong

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Mrs. Crocker didn't like living all alone. A pet would be good company, she thought. But the landlord, Mr. Glumly, had put signs everywhere in the apartment building:
No Pets Allowed!

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"How about one bird?" Mrs. Crocker asked Mr. Glumly one day.

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Mr. Glumly pointed to the sign. "No pets means no pets! If I let you have one bird, someone else will want three birds!"

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"How about a turtle?" Mrs. Crocker asked.

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"No pets of any kind allowed!" Mr. Glumly said. "If I let you have one turtle, someone else will want four turtles!"

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One morning Mrs. Crocker saw this ad in the newspaper:
The Lucky Animal Shelter needs your help! Be a kind friend to animals at the shelter and give them some time. Walk the dogs. Pet the cats. Sign up today!

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"That sounds like fun!" Mrs. Crocker thought. So she went to the animal shelter and signed up. Then she walked a dog named Penny. She petted ten cats. A puppy gave her a lick on the face. A kitten sat in Mrs. Crocker's basket. But Mrs. Crocker couldn't play with all of the dogs and cats at the animal shelter. The shelter needed more funds and volunteers. Mrs. Crocker wondered how else she could help.

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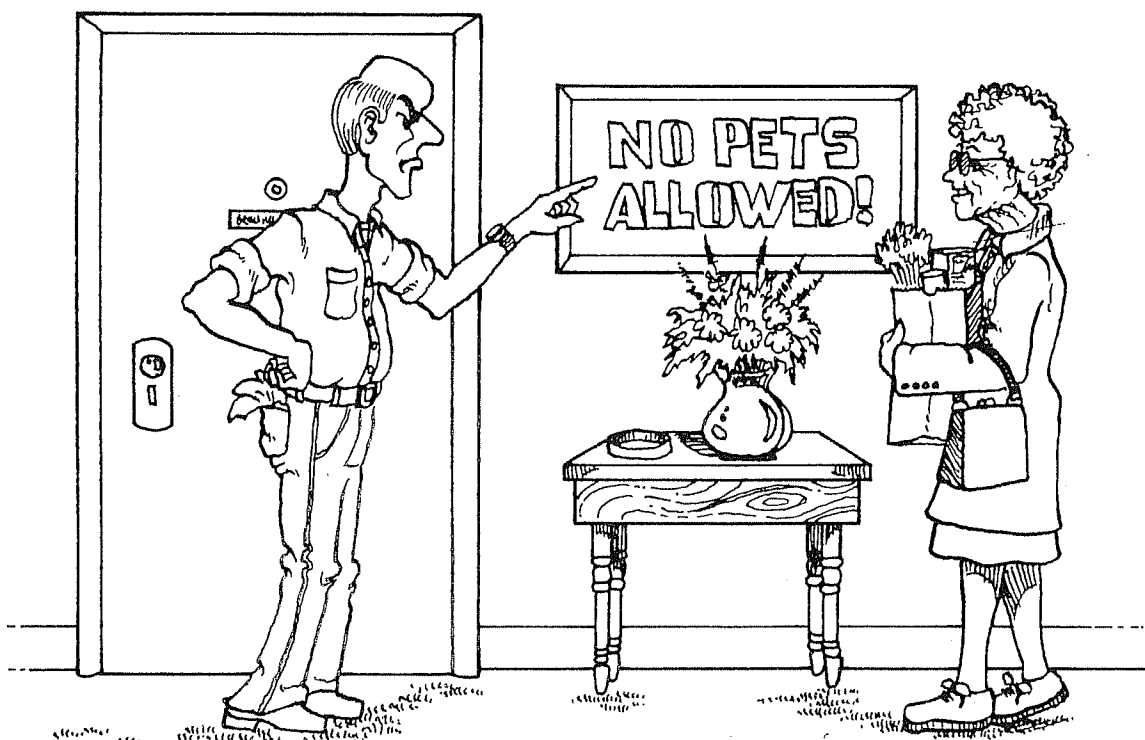
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When she got back home, she saw Mr. Glumly in the hall.	228
"Guess what!" Mrs. Crocker said to him. "I have a dog and six kittens."	240
Mr. Glumly looked into the apartment. Of course, no pets were there. "Very funny!" Mr. Glumly said.	242
Mrs. Crocker's next-door neighbor told her that she was lonely and would love to have a pet also. So Mrs. Crocker brought her to the shelter the next day to visit the animals.	252
The workers at the shelter said, "How will we find homes for all of these animals?"	259
"No problem!" said Mrs. Crocker. "I'll call some of my neighbors. I'll tell them about the shelter." Mrs. Crocker found some more volunteers. She ran into Mr. Howell at the market. He suggested that the shelter have a fund-raiser at his store in the mall. They could raise money and find homes for the animals.	269
Mrs. Crocker helped the shelter organize the fund-raiser. She took pictures of the dogs and cats who needed homes. The fund-raiser was a success. The shelter found homes for many of the dogs and cats and raised a lot of money to help even more animals in the future.	281
Mrs. Crocker felt happy that she could help the shelter. Now she had many pets at the shelter to play with and keep her company. And she hadn't even broken a single one of Mr. Glumly's rules.	293
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