

PET RESCUE

SCENE: The Zhang family are visiting a dog shelter. They are planning to adopt a dog as a family pet.

ROLES (5): Mr. Zhang (father), Mrs. Zhang (mother), Mei (elder sister), Cheng (younger brother), Holly (pet shelter worker)

READER AGES: 8 years and over

MEI: I can't believe it is finally happening! We're getting a dog! I'm so excited!

MRS. ZHANG: How many years have you been trying to convince your father to let you have a dog, Mei? Five years? Six years?

MEI: Eight years! Since I was three years old!

MRS. ZHANG: I still can't believe that Daddy has agreed to this whole plan. After all, he hates dogs.

MR. ZHANG: I don't hate dogs! I'm allergic to them!

CHENG: Daddy, what does 'allergic' mean?

MR. ZHANG: It means that my body doesn't like being close to dogs. They make my eyes itchy. My skin sometimes breaks out in a bumpy rash, too.

CHENG: Then why are we getting a dog, Daddy? Won't it make you sick?

MR. ZHANG: I sincerely hope not, Cheng. That reminds me... we can only look at dogs with short hair. Long haired dogs are the worst choice for people with allergies.

MEI: Okay, Daddy. That sounds fair to me.

Holly walks over to join the family.

HOLLY: Good morning! My name is Holly. Is there anything in particular that I can help you with today?

MEI: We'd like a dog, please. One with short hair. My dad is allergic.

HOLLY: *(laughing)* I think I'll need a little more information than that! We have lots of different short haired dogs. What type of dog are you looking for?

MEI: What do you mean? Aren't all dogs the same?

HOLLY: Good gracious, no! Some dogs are big, others are small. Some dogs are playful, others are calm. There are many different types of dogs!

MRS. ZHANG: Can you please show us some different dog breeds, Holly?

MR. ZHANG: With short hair, remember!

HOLLY: Of course. This is Bobby the Beagle. Beagles are happy, fun-loving dogs. They make wonderful pets for children, too.

CHENG: *(to Bobby the Beagle)* Hello there, Bobby. *(to his parents)* I love this one. Can we take him home?

MRS. ZHANG: Hold on a minute, Cheng. We have lots more dogs to see before we make a decision!

HOLLY: This is Chilli. She's a Chihuahua. Chihuahuas are very easy to groom and they are excellent watchdogs.

MEI: *(to Chilli the Chihuahua)* Well, aren't you beautiful! *(to her parents)* I don't need to see any of the other dogs. I want Chilli!

MR. ZHANG: But Mei, there might be a dog that's better suited to our family that we haven't seen yet. We should keep looking, just in case.

HOLLY: This is Doogie. Doogie is a Dachshund.

CHENG: No, he's not! He's a sausage dog!

HOLLY: *(laughing)* Yes, Dachshunds are sometimes called 'sausage dogs' because they are long and skinny, like a sausage. They're great hunters... and very cute, too!

MRS. ZHANG: Oh, I just love sausage dogs! I think we should take Doogie home!

HOLLY: I have one more dog to show you. Introducing... Daisy the Doberman!

MR. ZHANG: She's very big, isn't she? *(thinking)* Too big to live inside the house, don't you think?

HOLLY: Oh, yes! Dobermans are very energetic dogs. They need a large backyard so they can run and play.

MEI: She does seem lovely. *(to Daisy)* Hello, Daisy.

Daisy licks Mei on the face. Mei giggles.

MEI: Look! She likes me!

MRS. ZHANG: An outside dog is probably a good idea. Less cleaning up for me!

MR. ZHANG: And less itching and sneezing for me! *(to Cheng)* What do you think of Daisy, Cheng?

CHENG: Can I ride her?

MEI: Of course not, Cheng! She's not a horse!

CHENG: *(thinking)* I like her. She's the giant of dogs!

MRS. ZHANG: *(to Holly)* I think we've made our decision, Holly. There's only one dog for us.

MEI: Daisy the Doberman! Time to take you home!

THE END

