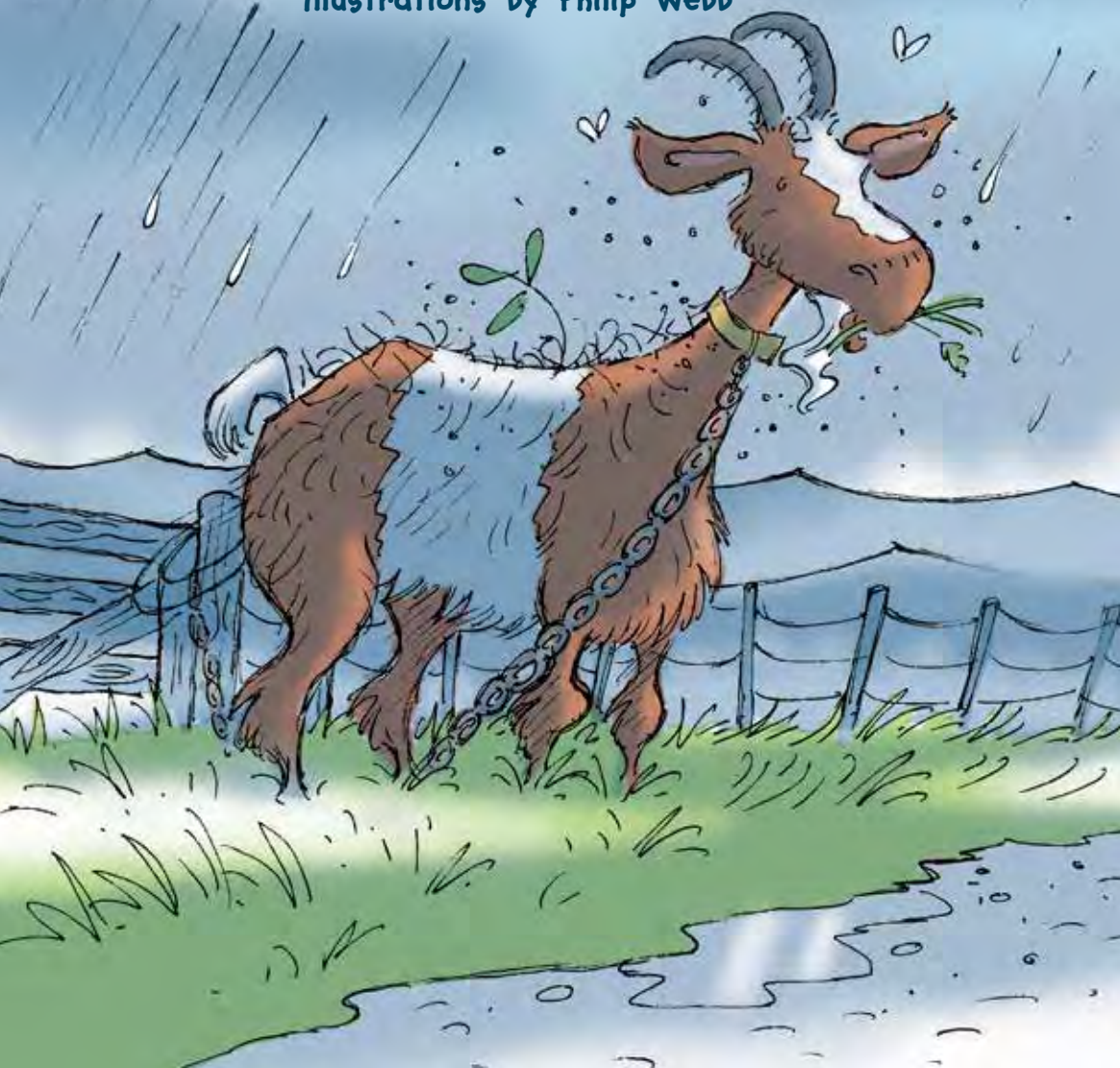


Garry the Goat's Escape

Story by John Carr
Illustrations by Philip Webb



Garry the Goat's Escape

© 2017 Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Education, Auckland, New Zealand

Published by Wendy Pye Publishing Limited for SPCA Education

Text by John Carr

Illustrations by Philip Webb

ISBN: 978-1-98-851090-3

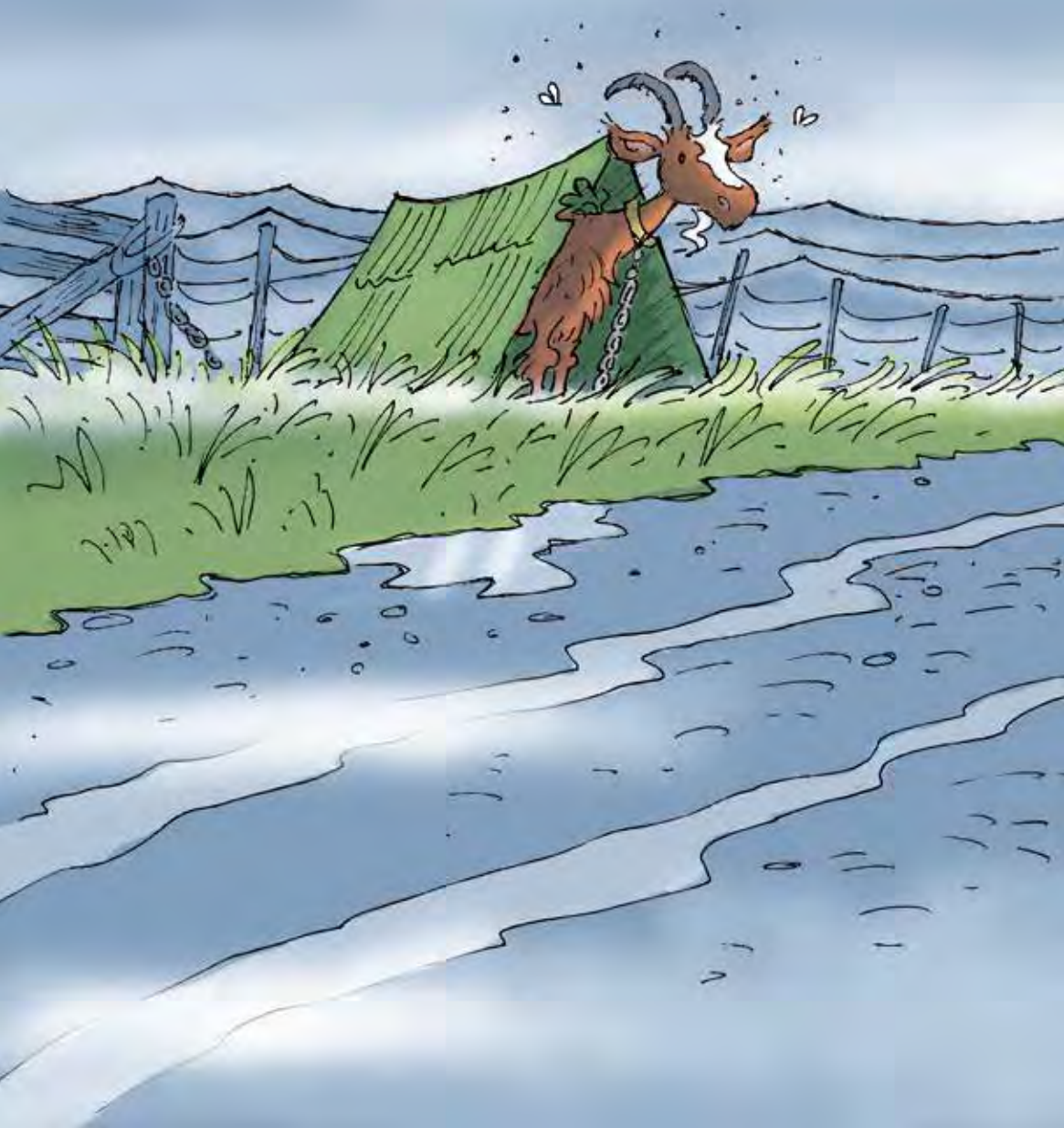
All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopy, recording or any information storage and retrieval system, without permission in writing from the publishers.

Distributed in New Zealand by The SPCA
50 Westney Road, Mangere, Auckland 2022

Printed in China through Colorcraft Ltd, Hong Kong.

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

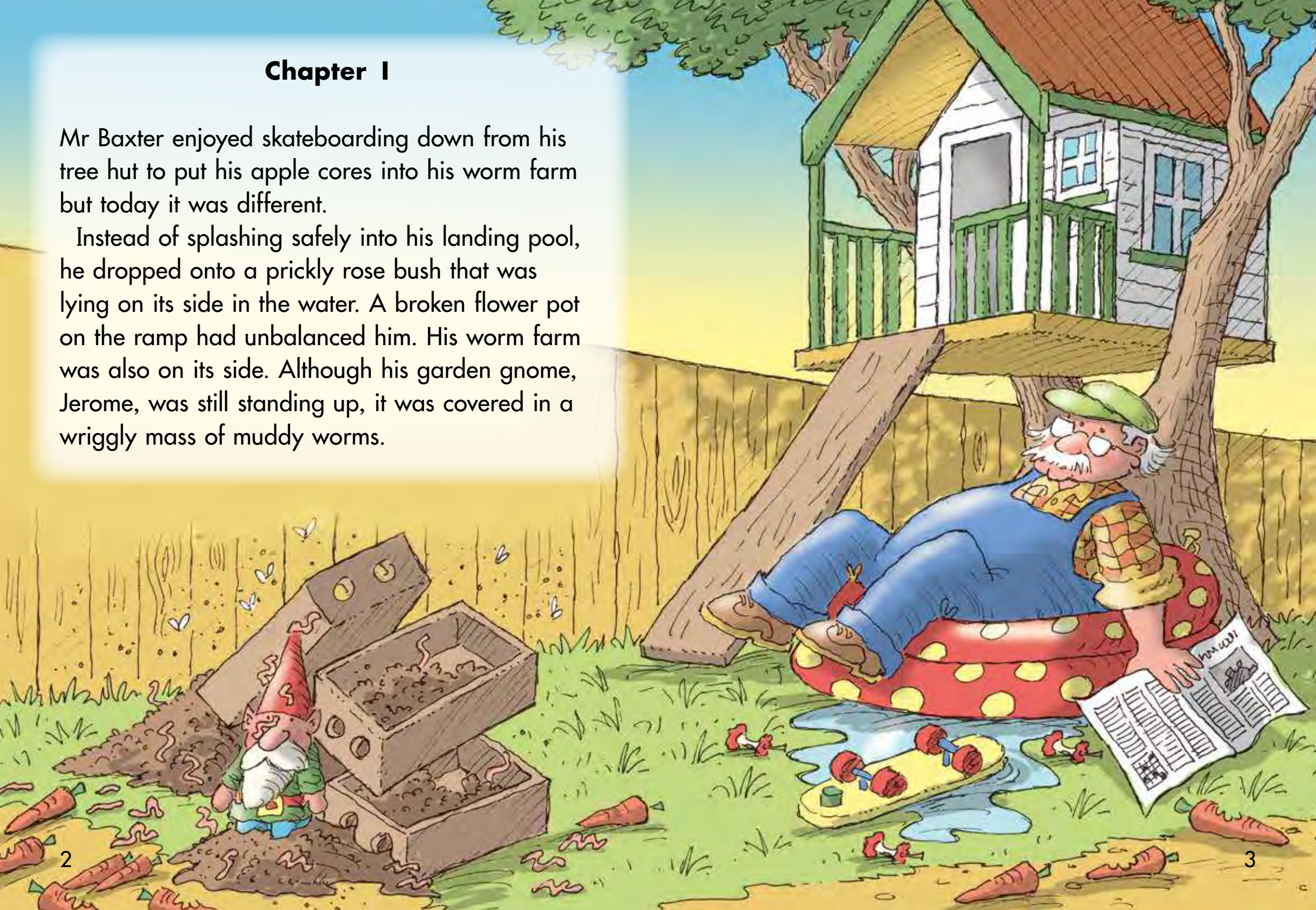
Garry the Goat's Escape



Chapter 1

Mr Baxter enjoyed skateboarding down from his tree hut to put his apple cores into his worm farm but today it was different.

Instead of splashing safely into his landing pool, he dropped onto a prickly rose bush that was lying on its side in the water. A broken flower pot on the ramp had unbalanced him. His worm farm was also on its side. Although his garden gnome, Jerome, was still standing up, it was covered in a wriggly mass of muddy worms.



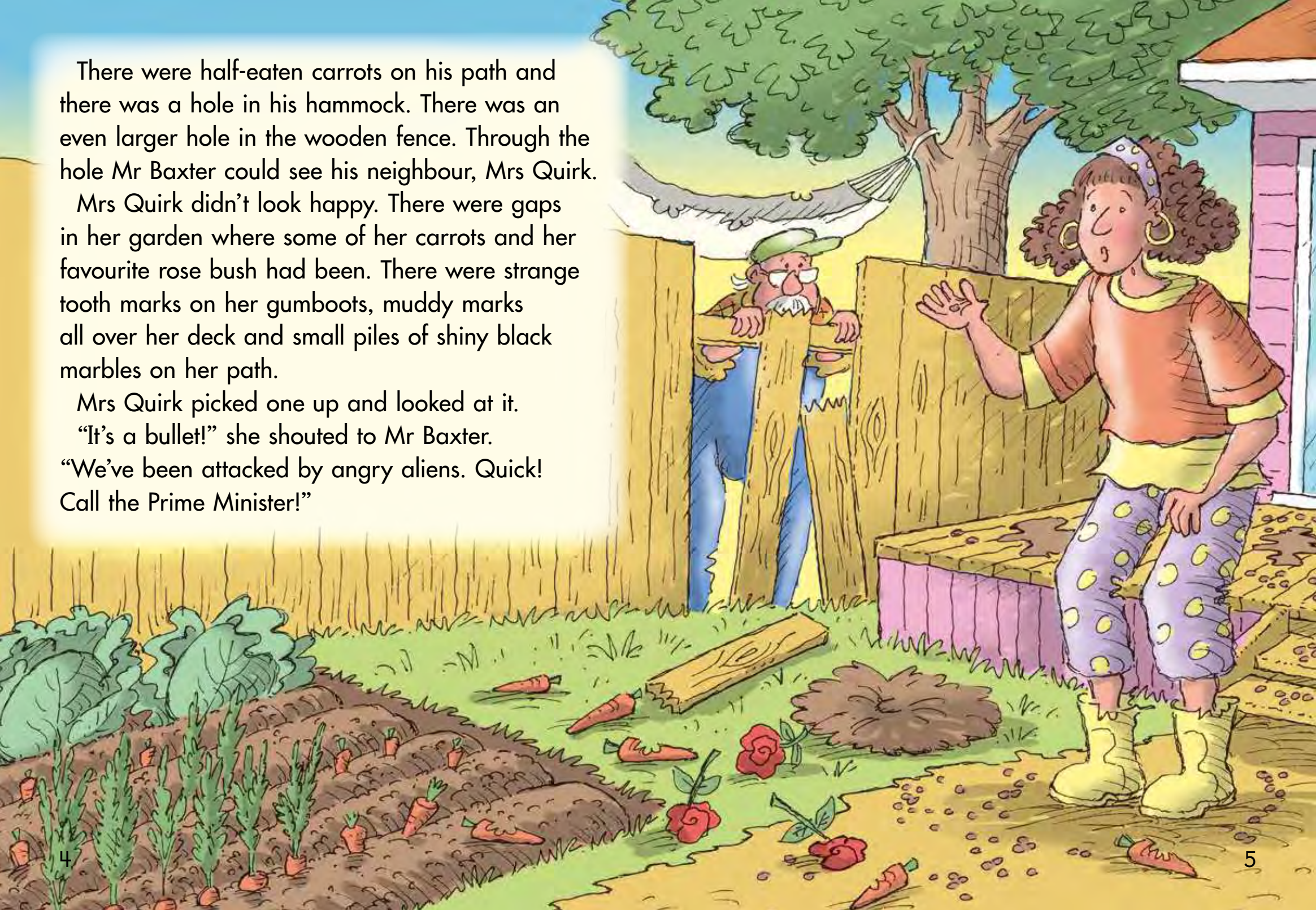
There were half-eaten carrots on his path and there was a hole in his hammock. There was an even larger hole in the wooden fence. Through the hole Mr Baxter could see his neighbour, Mrs Quirk.

Mrs Quirk didn't look happy. There were gaps in her garden where some of her carrots and her favourite rose bush had been. There were strange tooth marks on her gumboots, muddy marks all over her deck and small piles of shiny black marbles on her path.

Mrs Quirk picked one up and looked at it.

"It's a bullet!" she shouted to Mr Baxter.

"We've been attacked by angry aliens. Quick! Call the Prime Minister!"





Mr Baxter had a look at the bullet in Mrs Quirk's hand and smiled. "Doesn't look like angry aliens to me," he said, "more like hungry goats."

Then he heard the sound of a barrel hitting the ground from the direction of his clothesline, followed by a long "maaaaaa!"

He turned and saw a goat hanging from the clothesline close to his underpants which were now torn and tattered.

"I think we should ring the SPCA instead – and quickly!"

Chapter 2

Garry the goat's day had begun as usual with him chained to a fence beside a country road. He had been there for as long as he could remember and he didn't like it. It was his job to eat the long, dusty grass between the fence and the road.

Garry didn't like how the collar hurt his neck; he didn't like the pain in his feet from his overgrown hooves; he didn't like the chain; he didn't like being alone.

Garry didn't like the damp fog in the morning either, or the sound of the speeding ute.



Garry heard the ute's tyres sliding in the shingle before he saw it. As he jumped, the ute crunched into his shelter, through the fence and came to a stop in the paddock. Garry recovered from his shock and realised that his chain was no longer connected to the fence.

His day had suddenly got better. As the driver checked the dents in his ute, Garry dragged his chain into the fog and escaped. He was scared but excited at the same time.

Garry felt free – free to do as he liked, and that is what he did.



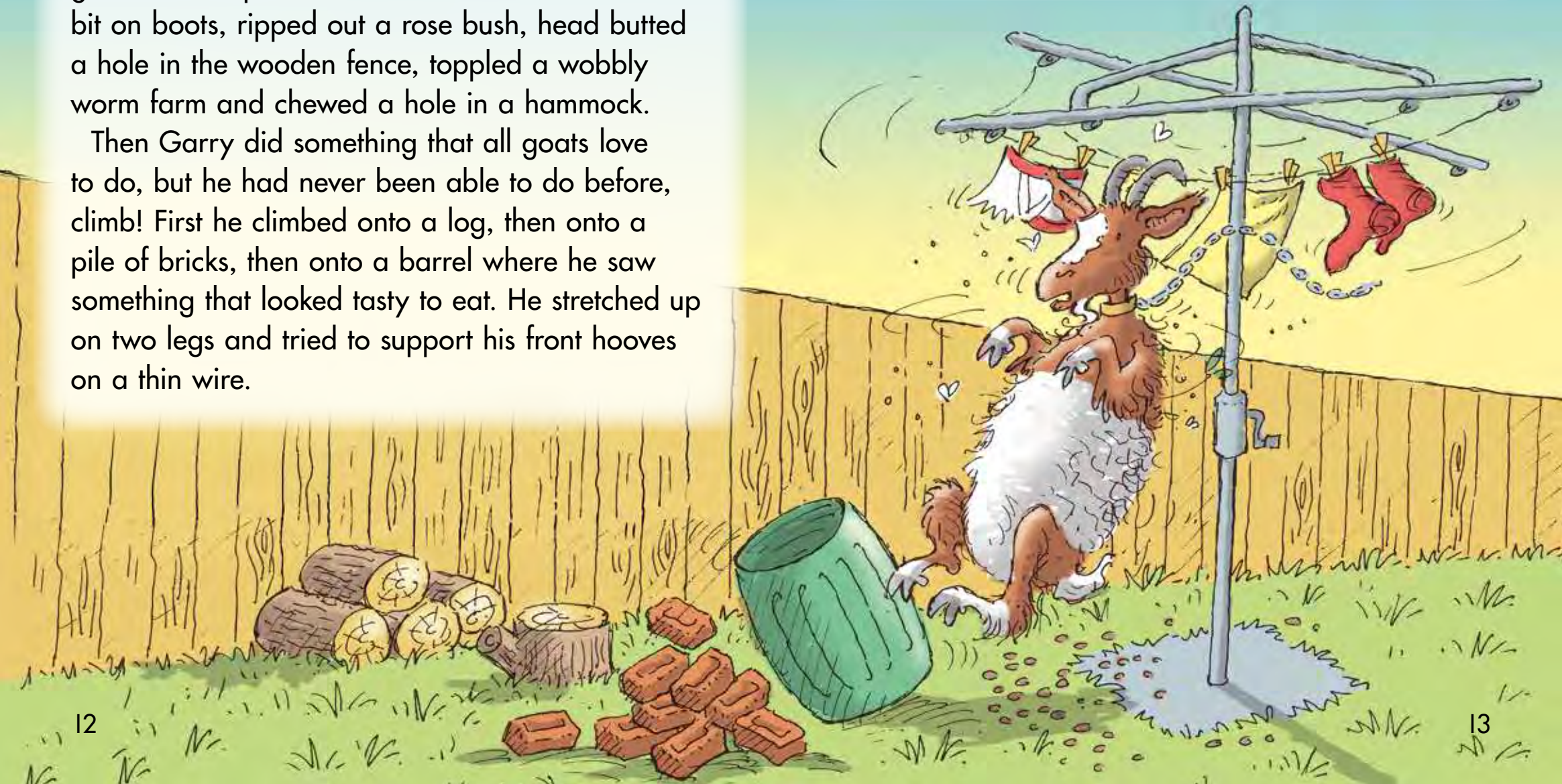
Chapter 3

When the fog lifted, Garry found himself in a place he had never seen before with lots of exciting goaty things to do. He stomped on the garden, chomped on carrots, danced on the deck, bit on boots, ripped out a rose bush, head butted a hole in the wooden fence, toppled a wobbly worm farm and chewed a hole in a hammock.

Then Garry did something that all goats love to do, but he had never been able to do before, climb! First he climbed onto a log, then onto a pile of bricks, then onto a barrel where he saw something that looked tasty to eat. He stretched up on two legs and tried to support his front hooves on a thin wire.

That was when things went wrong. As the barrel toppled over, Garry fell back, expecting to crash onto the ground but the crash never came.

Garry found himself, legs dangling, hanging in mid-air, making frightened noises.

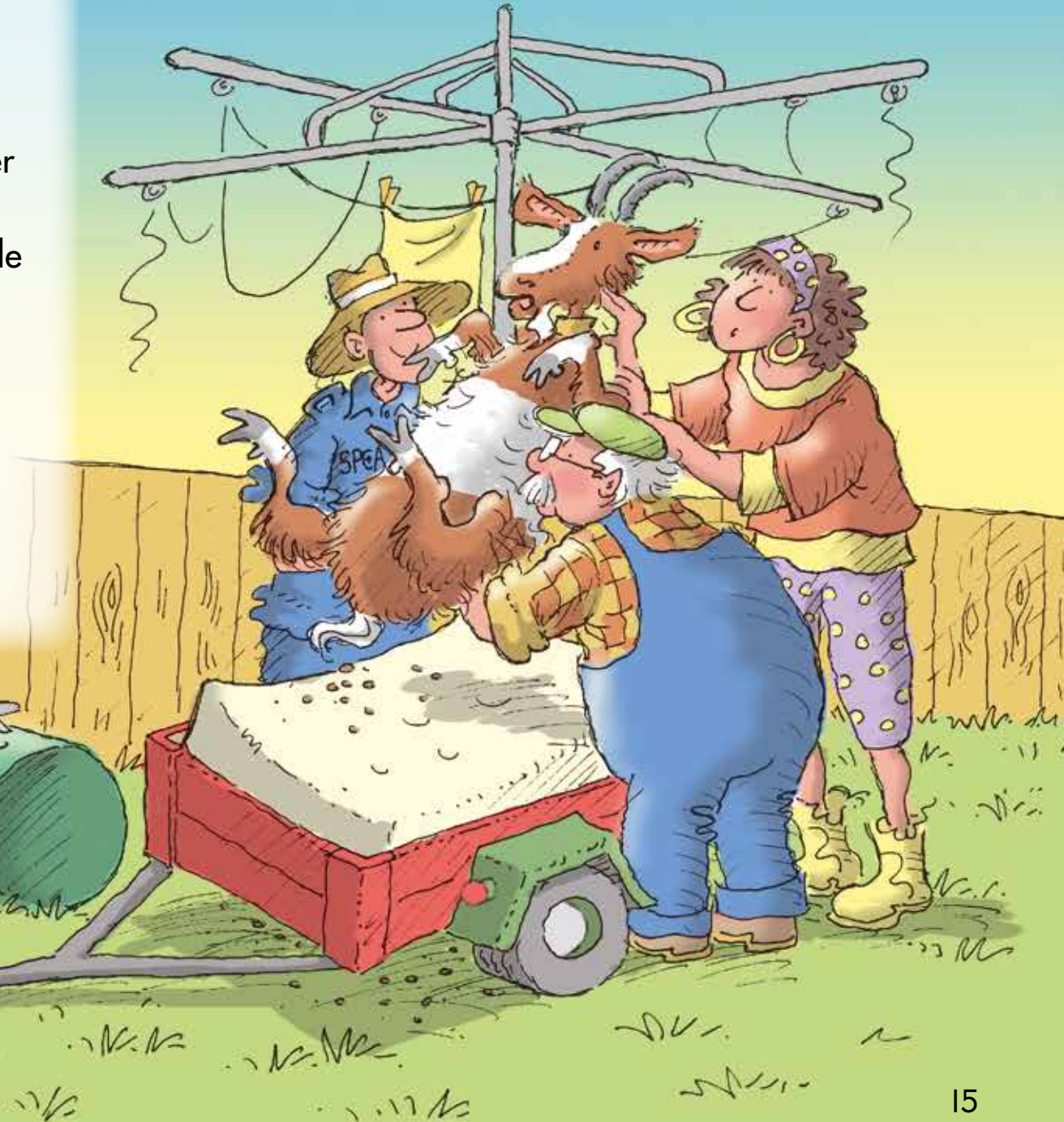


Chapter 4

Mr Weston had rescued lots of animals for the SPCA but he had never had to rescue a goat hanging by its horns from a clothesline. Mr Baxter and Mrs Quirk looked worried. Mr Weston could tell by the shiny black bullets on the ground beside him, that the goat was worried, too.

With the help of a trailer, an old mattress and some wire clippers, Mr Weston and Mr Baxter unhooked Garry from the clothesline.

Garry was still stressed when he was safely on the ground and Mrs Quirk had to hold tightly to his collar to stop him escaping.

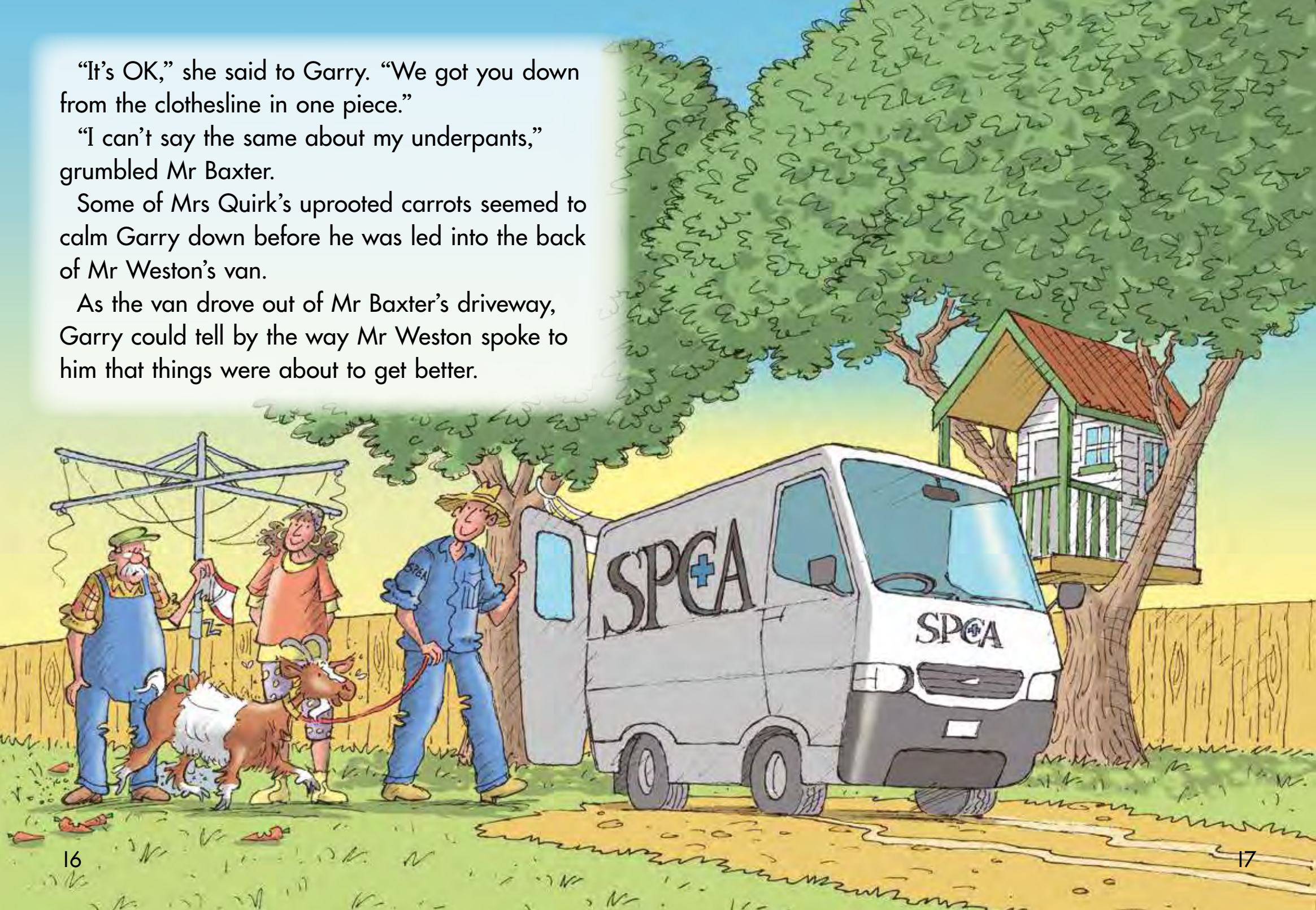


“It’s OK,” she said to Garry. “We got you down from the clothesline in one piece.”

“I can’t say the same about my underpants,” grumbled Mr Baxter.

Some of Mrs Quirk’s uprooted carrots seemed to calm Garry down before he was led into the back of Mr Weston’s van.

As the van drove out of Mr Baxter’s driveway, Garry could tell by the way Mr Weston spoke to him that things were about to get better.



Chapter 5

Garry was right. His chain was removed and he was checked out by a very friendly vet who rubbed something soothing into the raw spots on his neck. Then two years' of road dust, mud and prickly plant seeds were clipped and brushed from his hair and his hooves were cleaned and trimmed.



The next morning things got even better when Garry was moved to the goat paddock. Not only was there clean grass, fresh water and a rock pile to climb on, there were two other goats there as well!

After a few days of playing with his new friends, Garry hoped he could stay at the SPCA centre forever though he knew he wouldn't. He had seen people come and choose animals to take home. One day it could happen to him, or one of his new friends.



Chapter 6

The next day Mr Weston brought a man into the goat paddock. The man looked at all the goats and then came closer. It was Mr Baxter!

Garry felt relieved. He knew Mr Baxter wouldn't choose him, not after what Garry had done to his fence, his paddling pool, his worm farm, his garden gnome, his hammock, his clothesline and his underpants.

At the same time Garry was sad that Mr Baxter might take one of his friends away.

So Garry climbed to the top of the rock pile and watched as Mr Weston helped load his two friends onto Mr Baxter's trailer. Garry felt sad and alone until he saw Mr Baxter come back through the gate, smile and walk towards him.



Mr Baxter's smile was still there when he unloaded Garry and the other goats off the trailer and into their newly fenced paddock. Mrs Quirk was also there to give Mr Baxter some fresh carrots for fixing the hole in her fence.

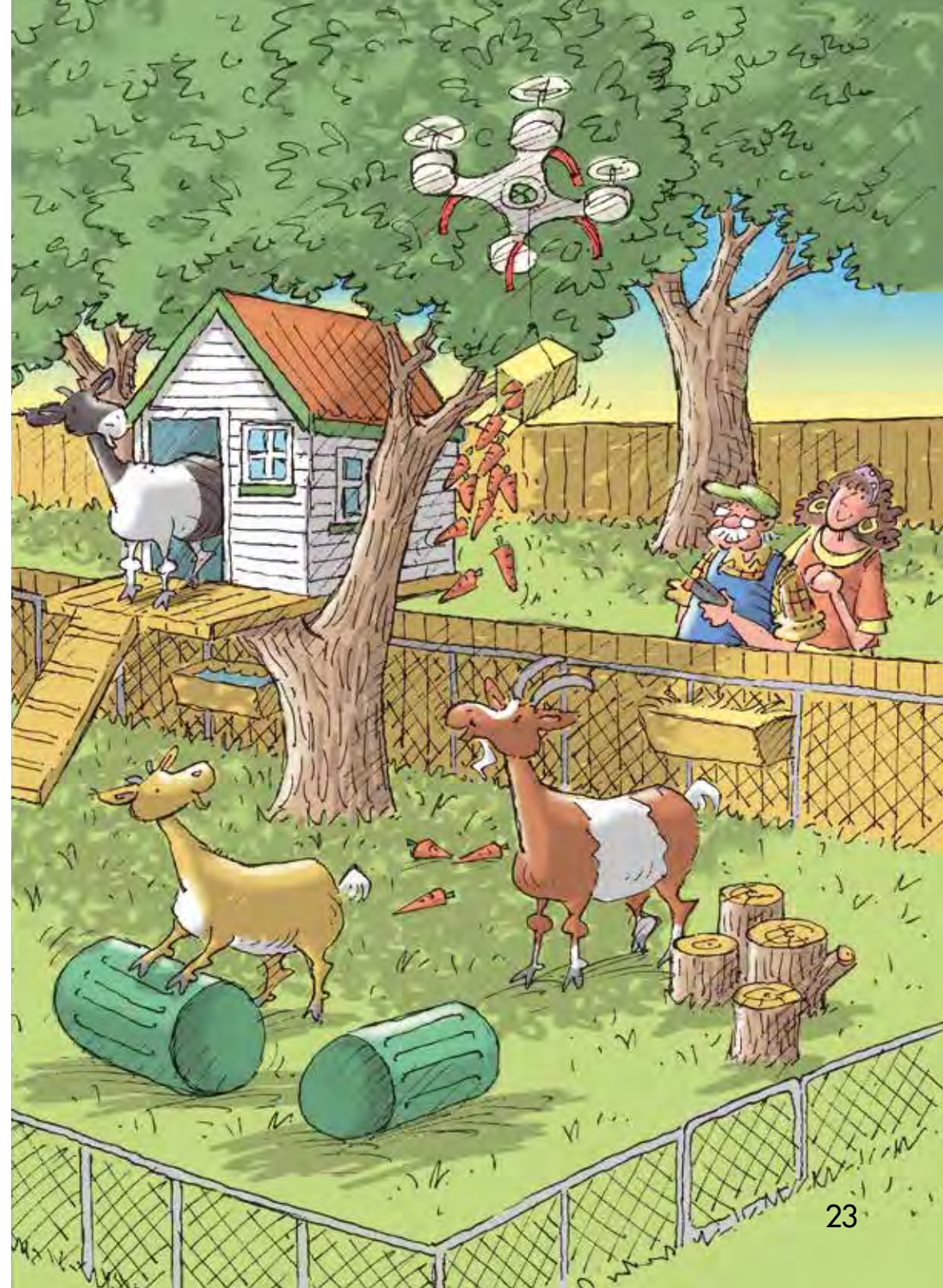
"It's going to be the best goat adventure park in the world," he told her.

Garry and his two friends thought it already was. The tree hut had been turned into a goat shelter and the skateboard ramp was now a climbing ramp. The logs had been turned into a climbing cluster and there were several butting barrels lying in the paddock.

They watched as Mr Baxter stood on the other side of the fence and taught Mrs Quirk how to drop carrots to hungry goats from his drone.

"I'm so glad I've got some goats to share this project with me," he said. "I haven't had so much fun since I was a kid."

Mrs Quirk could see Garry looking up. He seemed to be nodding his head as if to agree.



Care of Goats



- Goats need shelter from the rain and the cold and they need to be near fresh grass. This means their shelters have to be moveable. An important reason for a nice shelter is that goats hate getting wet!
- Goats are browsers, which means they eat a range of grasses, leaves, plants and shrubs. Just like us, goats like their food and water to be fresh and clean. Some plants can be poisonous to goats, so find out which ones and get rid of any poisonous weeds, plants and trees in your paddock before you bring your goats home.
- Goats should not be tied up because they can get tangled and injure themselves. They can also get sores on their necks if their collars rub.
- Goats are herd animals. They prefer to live with other goats, not by themselves.
- Goats are curious. They love to explore, especially using their mouths. They need to be well fenced in and have interesting things to climb on. Goats enjoy attention from people.
- Goats like to have things to jump on and they can even climb trees!

Visit kids.spcaeducation.org.nz to learn more about caring for goats