

Storm Gets A New Family

Story by John Carr
Illustrations by Philip Webb



Storm Gets a New Family

© 2016 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: 978-0-947508-66-1

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

Storm Gets A New Family



Chapter 1

It was there again! Storm could see the top of its head above the wooden fence, and he knew the strange creature on wheels was back!

Springing up, Storm moved towards the fence. His chain jangled on the concrete behind him. He waited behind the tree.

The creature's body suddenly appeared. Storm waited until the creature reached for the wooden box beside the gate. Then he pounced!



In a fury of loud barking and growling, Storm pounced at the creature. It reared back on its wheels in fright. The chain tightened on Storm's collar, his neck was pulled back and he leapt on his hind legs. He kept barking as the creature fled.



Storm slumped, panting, happy but sad at the same time. Scaring the postie was always the best part of his day and it was over.

For the rest of the day Storm lay on the concrete – lonely, hungry and bored. The people he lived with were out almost every day, and he was chained to the old wooden box that the people called a kennel.

Sometimes, Storm was let off the chain and was allowed to run around the yard as long as he didn't bark, dig holes in the lawn, run on the vegetable garden, join the children's ball games, or bite holes in their Frisbees.

Storm wasn't allowed in the house. He hadn't been taken for a walk by anyone since he was a puppy. But that night everything changed.



Chapter 2

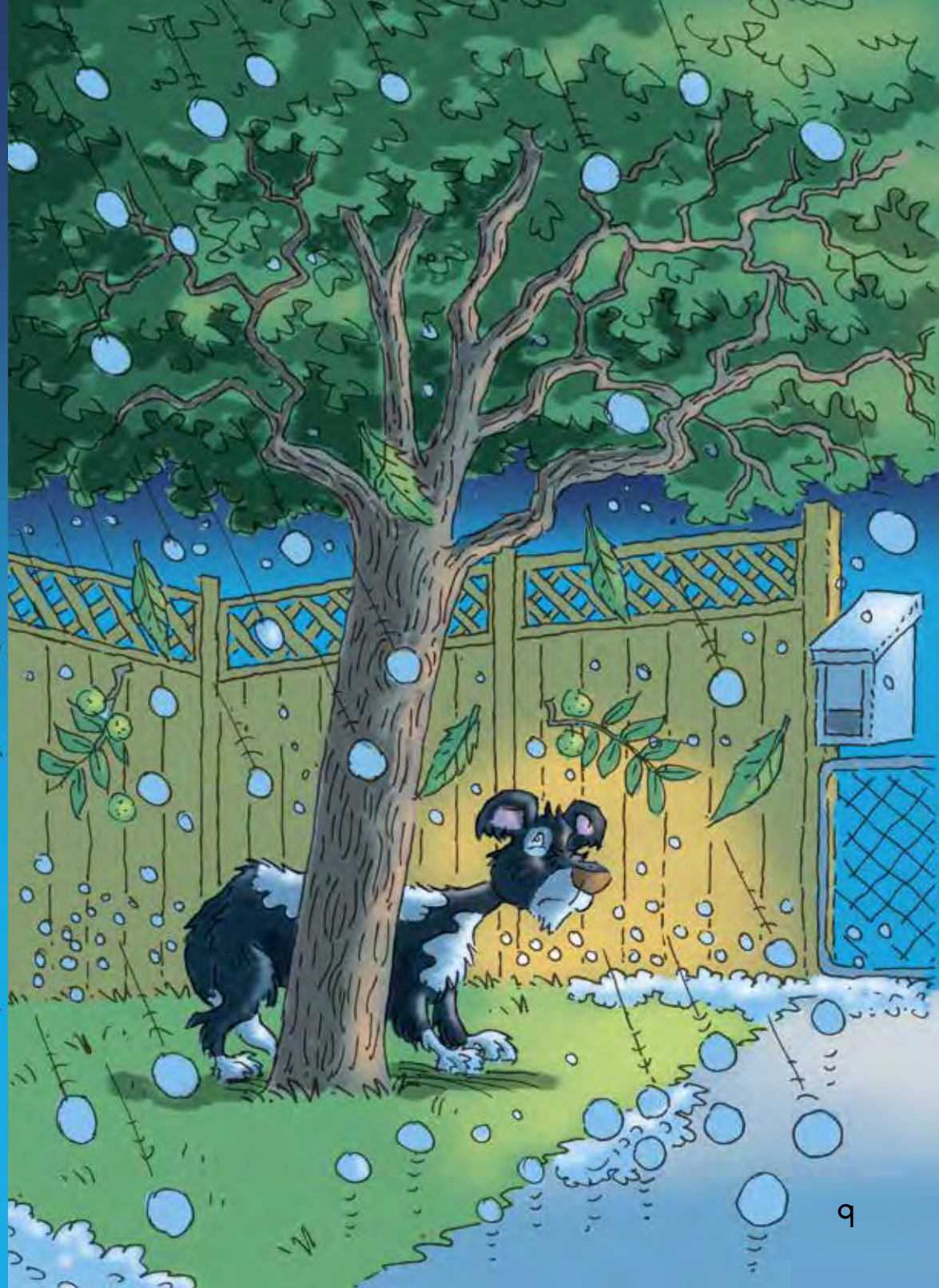
Storm woke to a bright flashing light and a rumbling noise. He knew what it was and he was scared. Even though he was called Storm, he didn't like storms, and thunderstorms were the worst.

When the second flash of lightning struck, and another louder thunderclap rattled his kennel, Storm panicked and ran.



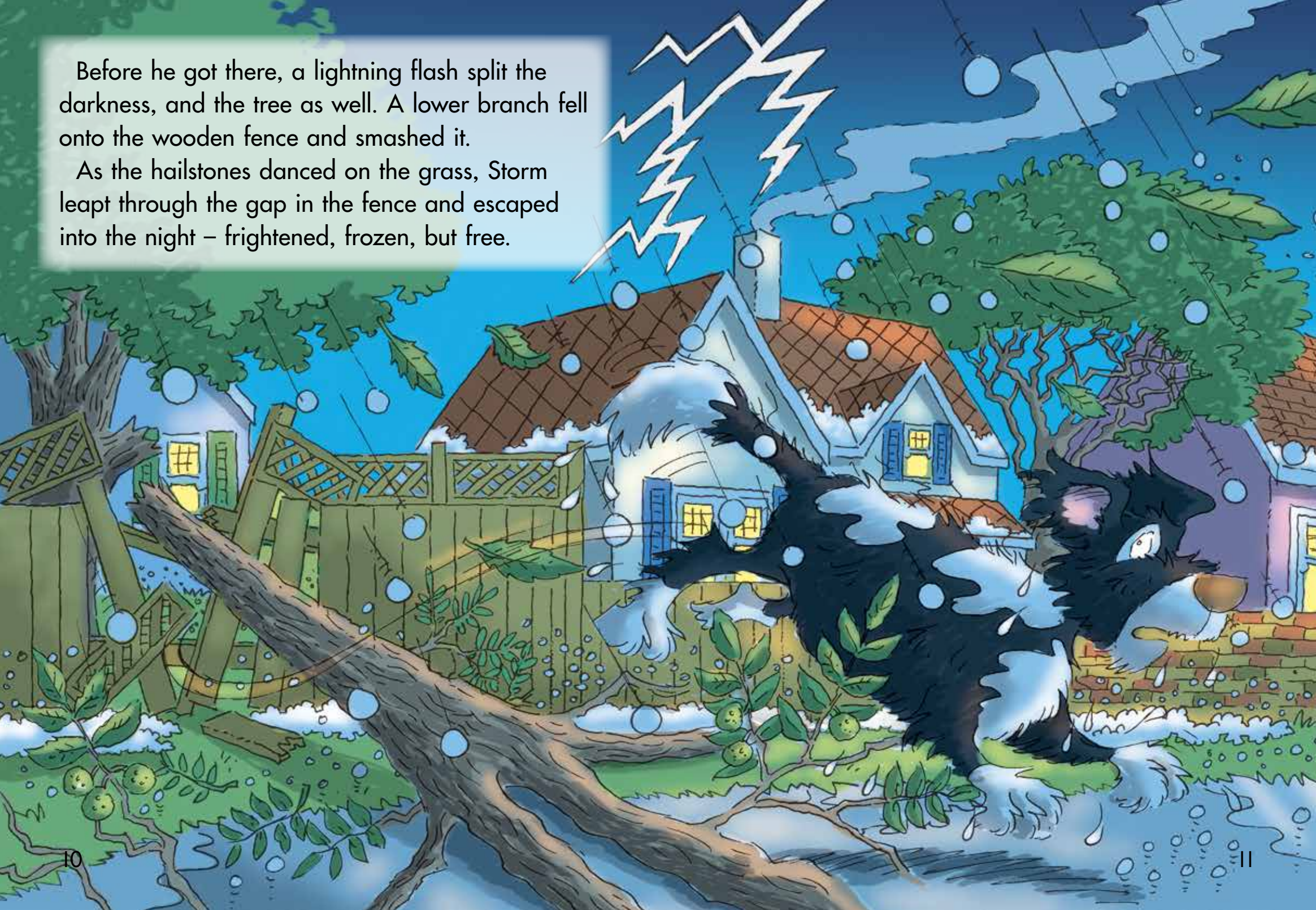
Storm didn't know where he was running, but when the chain snapped tight he realised he had run too far. His head was pulled back. There was a ripping sound and his head fell forward. His old leather collar had ripped.

Storm bounded towards the tree to get shelter from the hailstones.



Before he got there, a lightning flash split the darkness, and the tree as well. A lower branch fell onto the wooden fence and smashed it.

As the hailstones danced on the grass, Storm leapt through the gap in the fence and escaped into the night – frightened, frozen, but free.



Chapter 3

The next morning Storm woke to the sound of excited voices. From under the bush where he had slept, he could see children chasing balls and each other on the grass.

Without a chain or a fence to stop him, Storm ran to join in the fun. When he bounced the ball on his head, the children laughed but the man wasn't happy and shooed Storm away.



As Storm trotted off the field, he saw a small child who was watching the game with her father. She had friendly eyes and a warm smile that told Storm she loved dogs.

Storm stood near the child until he smelt cooked meat and headed in that direction.



Storm didn't know as much about streets or cars as he did about food, and he was thinking about food when he crossed the road.

He heard the screech but he didn't see the car until he was under it. He rolled over and over before he came to a stop in the gutter.

Slowly he got up and limped away. He didn't feel the pain in his leg or notice the blood until he lay down in the bushes.



Yelping quietly to himself, Storm didn't notice the two heads poking through the bushes. The heads belonged to the child with the friendly eyes and her father. They looked worried. The girl looked at Storm's injured leg but she didn't touch it.

"You'll be OK," said the girl as her father rang the SPCA.



The girl stayed with Storm when the man from the SPCA arrived. She rubbed Storm's neck and kept him calm as the man treated Storm and carried him to the van. Her sad smile and friendly wave were the last things Storm saw before he was driven away.

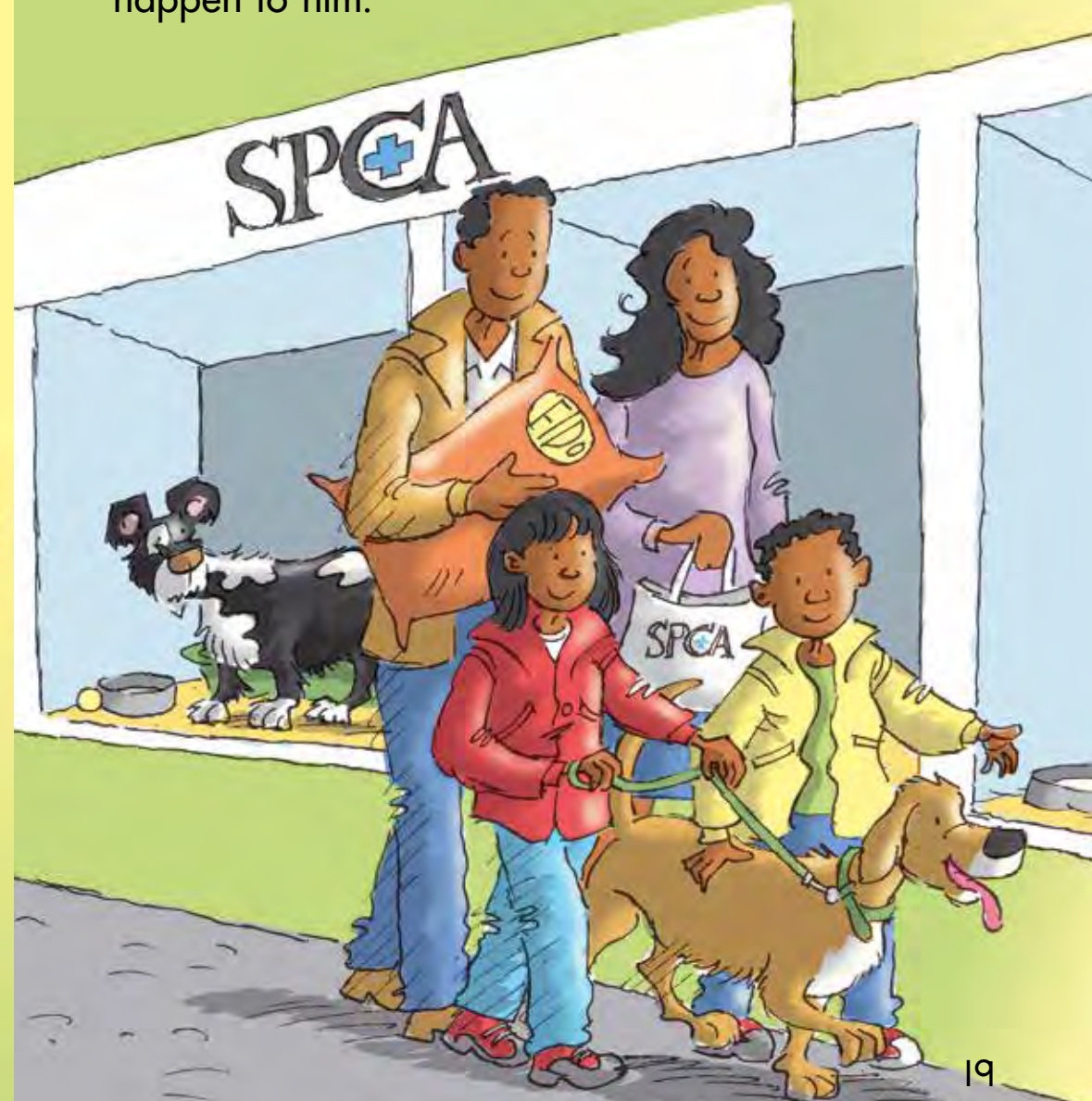


Chapter 4

After seven days at the SPCA hospital and a ten-week holiday at the home of some very happy people, Storm was feeling much better. He could walk without a limp. The injections and the operation were forgotten and he was now strong enough to play with all the other dogs who shared his new home. He didn't even mind having a new collar because it didn't have a chain.



Every day someone came to look at Storm and the other dogs. Sometimes they took dogs away with them. The dogs and the people always looked happy and Storm wondered if that would ever happen to him.



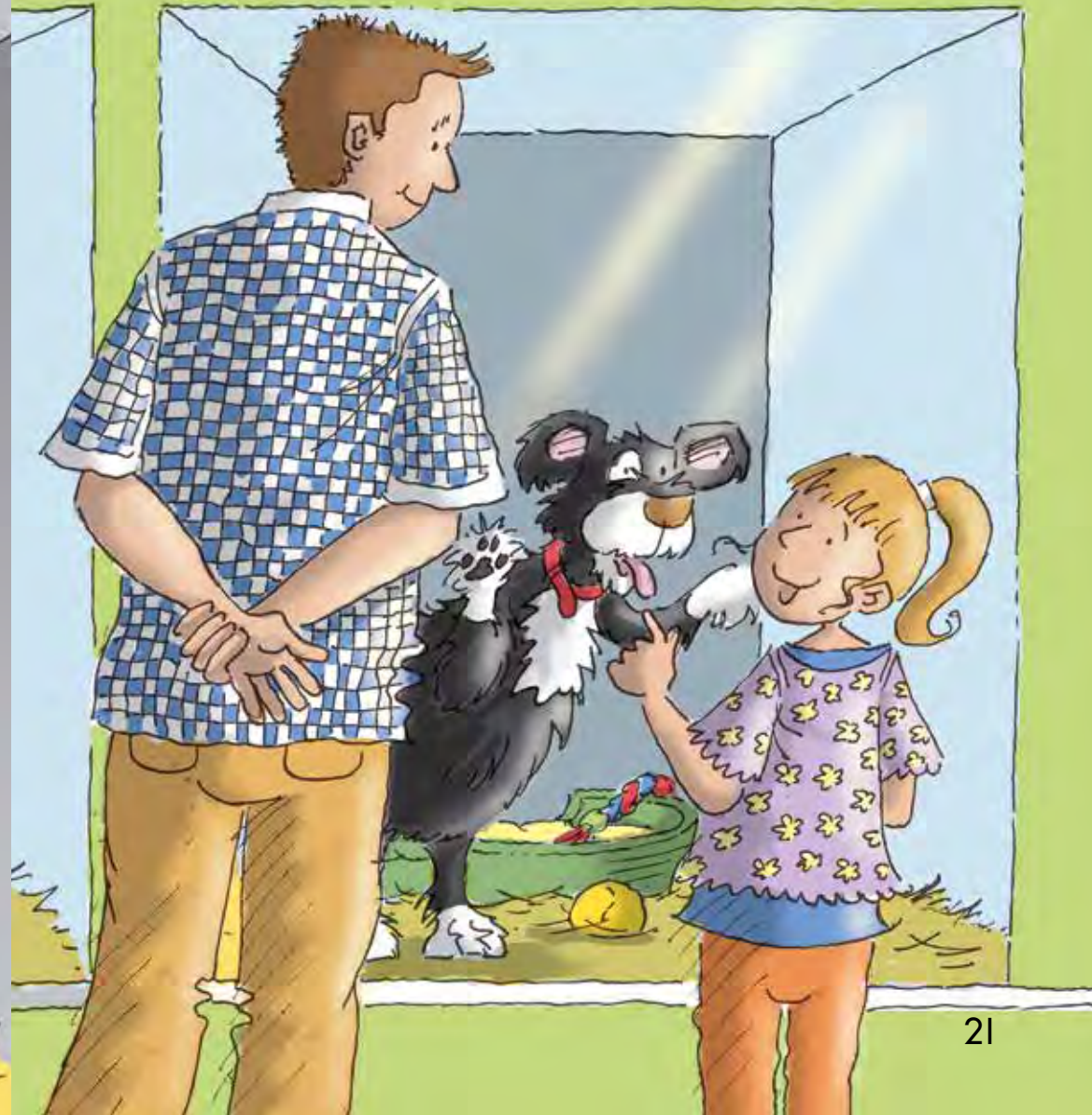
One day, as Storm snoozed beside the big window, he opened one eye and staring back at him were two friendly eyes he had seen before.

Even though her nose was pressed hard against the window, and her smile wasn't sad, Storm knew it was the girl who had saved him.



She turned to the man beside her and said, "Dad, Dad. It's him! Can we have him? Can we take him home, pleeeeeease?"

Storm leapt at the window excitedly and tried to lick the face on the other side of the glass.



Chapter 5

For Storm, things just got better and better. At his new home he had a big yard and a kennel with no chains. He had balls to chase, bones to bury and a playmate with friendly eyes who didn't mind if he put holes in her Frisbee.



Every day one of the people in the family took Storm for a walk or he took one of them for a walk. He learnt how to treat roads and cars and posties properly. On Sundays he was allowed to play with other dogs, and he was even allowed to sleep inside.



Happy Dog Hints



- Dogs make great pets.
- Dogs need exercise. Take her for a walk on a lead every day. As well as the exercise, she will learn how to behave around other people, other dogs and traffic.
- Dogs need to run off the lead as well. Do this in places where she is allowed and where she is safe. Wait until your dog is trained enough to come back when you call.
- Dogs love to play. It exercises their brains and makes them happy.
- Always play using toys rather than your hands and feet. Don't "rough play" with your dog. Playing with toys mean that your dog won't get bored. Only play "Frisbee" if you don't mind getting holes in it.
- When you play "fetch" with your dog, make sure she sits before you throw. Praise her when the ball or whatever you have thrown is returned and dropped.
- Do not chain dogs up. This causes distress, injuries and behaviour problems.
- When your dog is playing with toys, try and find a place without other dogs as toys can cause fights.

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