

Let's Pretend...Dog Rescue

Are you ready
to pretend?
Let's go!





Close your eyes. Now open them...



We are at an animal rescue shelter.

Julia loves dogs, so she and her family volunteer at a dog rescue shelter. That means she works but she doesn't get paid. She donates her time.





Julia says, “Many people love dogs, but don’t have the money or time to care for them. They don’t take the dogs to the vet to get the care they need. Sometimes the dogs become strays. That means they have no home.”



The shelter has a nice play yard so the dogs can run and socialize together. One of the jobs at the shelter is to use a pooper-scooper and clean up all the poop in the play yard so it's clean for the animals and the volunteers. It's part of taking care of animals. Julia says, "This is not a job I like! I like to feed and water the dogs and play with them."



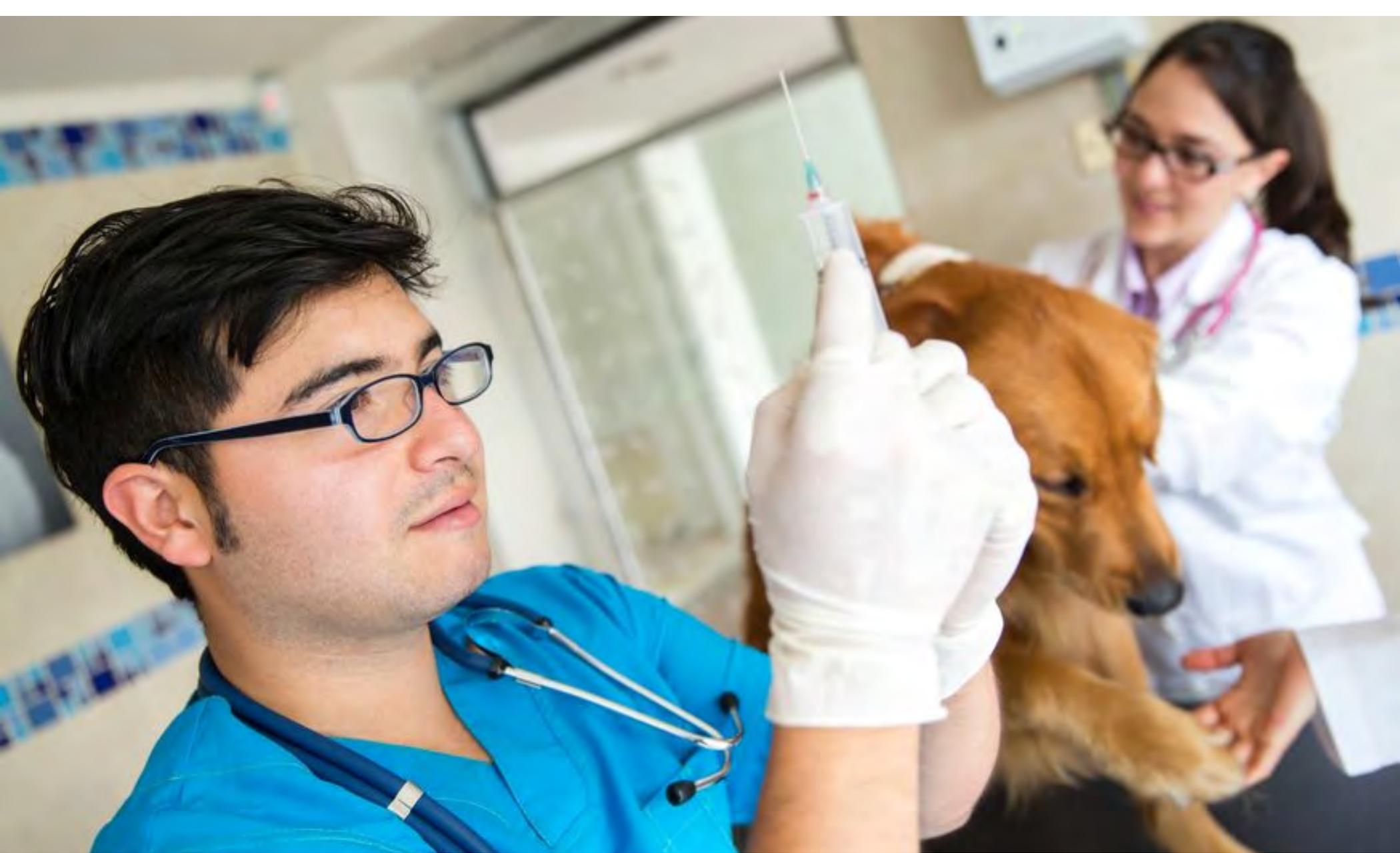
The Animal Control Officer drives around in a special truck to look for stray cats and dogs. People call her when they see stray animals. She gently coaxes them over and puts them in crates to keep them safe. Then she puts them in the back of her animal control truck and drives them to a shelter.



The rescue worker tells Julia, “The Animal Control Officer just brought four new pups in today. Please make sure they get food and water.”



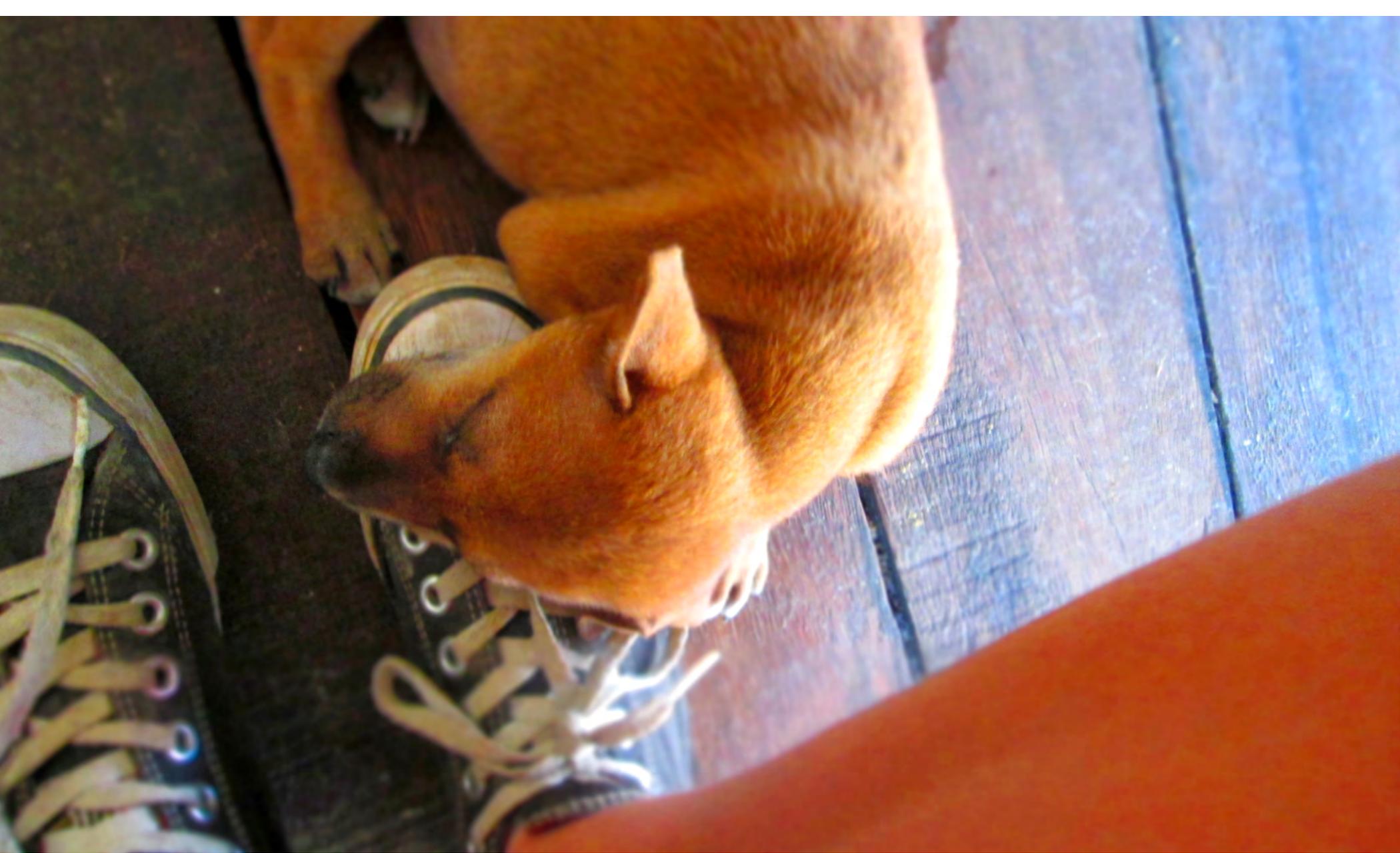
“The four new puppies are all from the same litter. Put them in the big tub so they can sleep together. They are so little that they should still be with their mom, but we will do our best to take care of them,” the rescue worker tells Julia.



The rescue worker calls the vet. He says, “I’ll be right there to check on the puppies. I just need to give this gal some antibiotics for an infection.”



After he examines the puppies, the vet says, “All four puppies are healthy except for some skin problems. I will shave the problem areas and give them medicine, and then they should be fine.”



Julia pets the puppies to help them stay calm while the vet shaves their fur. “Good dog,” she says, kissing the top of one puppy’s head. Then she plays with them. The rescue worker says, “Julia, I think you tired this pup out with all your playing. He is asleep on your shoe!”



It's harder to find a home for a big older dog like Bruno. He needs some tender loving care and a family that wants him. The rescue worker asks Julia, "Could you make a poster to let people know about Bruno and then he needs a family?"



Everyday a rescue worker takes groups of dogs out for a walk. He teaches them to heel and walk beside or behind him. This helps the dogs get exercise and stay socialized. It's good for them to see people. The rescue workers want them to stay friendly with people so they can find them a home.



It's easier to find homes for the little puppies. Wouldn't you like to take this puppy home? Pretend you are a rescue worker holding this puppy in your arms. Don't squeeze him too tightly, be gentle. Pat his head and talk quietly to him. "It's okay pup. We'll find you a nice home."



A family comes by to look at the dogs. The little girl says, “Please Mom, please can we get a puppy? I like this one with the blue collar.”

The little brother and sister pups like to run. They seem happy playing with the girls. The mom says, “We can’t separate these two; they belong together! I think we should take them both home to live with us.” **What do you think her daughters said then?**



The dog looks like he is smiling. Maybe he knows he has a new home. The older girl says, "Let's name them Biscuit and Gravy." "Okay," says the dad, "whatever you girls want. You are the new owners and you will have to take good care of these pups."





The family has to fill out many forms before they can take the dogs home. The rescue worker says, “We have given them the first shots they need, so altogether the cost is \$150. When you get home, they should see the vet again in two weeks. Thank you for giving these puppies a good home.”

Julia shows the little girls how to hold a new puppy. She says, “Your new puppy will be comforted when you hold him securely. Take him for walks, give him a bath when he needs it, and most importantly, give him lots of love.”



“I already have a dog at home,” Julia says. “I know I can’t take all the dogs home. But volunteering at a shelter is a good way to help out. I will always get my dogs from a shelter. Every dog deserves a good home with a bowl of food!”





“But what about me?” says one of the new little pups.



The rescue worker puts the new pups in their tub bed. “Take a rest you four. We will play more later and find you families in no time!”



There are other shelters that have cats and dogs, and even animals like guinea pigs and rabbits! There are rescue workers and volunteers and vets who work at the shelters, and people who go to the shelter to adopt a new pet, too.





Would you like to work at an animal rescue shelter? Would you like to be a vet or a volunteer? A rescue worker or an animal control officer who drives the truck and rescues the animals? **Turn and tell a friend what job you would like at the Animal Rescue Shelter.**

Now it's your turn
to pretend!

