

Let's talk together

Ask one or two questions at a time. Children may answer with words, drawings, or pointing to a picture.

1. Why did Dad wait for Titus to come closer?
 2. Lucas wondered whether Titus had done something wrong. What would you tell Lucas?
 3. How did Titus show that he needed space or rest?
 4. What is the difference between loving an animal and doing the work of caring for one?
 5. Why does an animal need care even when we are busy, tired, or eager to play?
 6. What did the grown-ups do when the situation was too serious to handle alone?
 7. What could a family do if they could no longer provide the care an animal needs?
 8. What did Lucas mean by "Tomorrow, too"?
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For grown-ups

The story includes non-graphic animal neglect and one plain statement that animals can die without essentials. Pause to reassure sensitive children. They are not responsible for fixing cruelty or investigating adults. A frightened animal may need space even if it looks friendly. If a child sees an animal in trouble, they should tell a trusted grown-up and stay safely back; adults contact appropriate local animal-welfare help.

Titus's care team

Draw or write the animal's name: _____

Care job	How I can help	Grown-up responsible	Grown-up checked
Check and refresh drinking water			
Meals, following the animal's care plan			
Clean, comfortable resting space			
Appropriate exercise and enrichment			
Notice changes in eating, movement, or behavior	Tell a grown-up		
Health appointments and treatment	Adult job		

Our promise: We will make sure this animal has care every day. If we cannot manage, we will ask for help.

For families: Adapt the chart to the animal's species, age, health, and veterinary advice. Young children help under supervision. Adults remain responsible for every task, including when a child is absent or forgets. Do not use a completed chore chart as a substitute for checking the animal and its supplies.

What would you do?

1. Lucas wants to play, but it is time to check Titus's water.

- A. Wait until Titus complains.
- B. Help the grown-up check and refresh the water first.
- C. Assume someone else has done it.

2. Titus turns away from a toy and lies down.

- A. Put the toy against his face.
- B. Keep calling until he gets up.
- C. Give him space and ask a grown-up if worried.

3. You see an unfamiliar animal that looks hurt or frightened.

- A. Stay safely back and tell a trusted grown-up.
- B. Try to catch it yourself.
- C. Go into someone's yard to investigate.

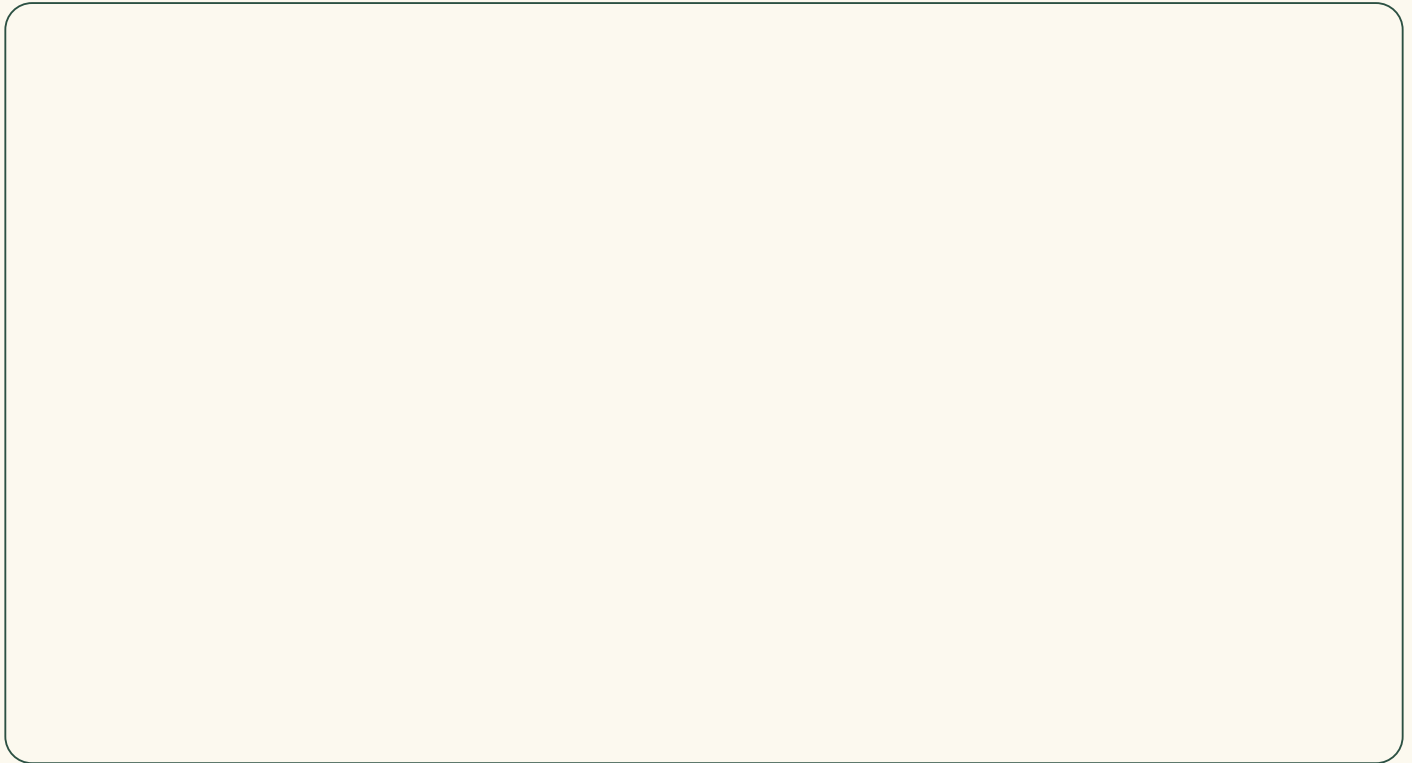
4. A family is struggling to care for its animal.

- A. Keep it secret forever.
- B. Ask a veterinarian, shelter, rescue, or appropriate local animal-welfare service for help before the animal goes without care.
- C. Stop checking its needs.

Answers for grown-ups: 1 B; 2 C; 3 A; 4 B. Ask "Why?" and connect each choice to Titus's story. Avoid shaming a child for a wrong answer.

Make a kindness promise

On your own paper, draw Titus enjoying his new home. If you print this page, you may use the box below. Add drinking water, a safe resting place, a suitable activity, and a grown-up he can depend on.



An animal can count on me to help with:

When I need help, I will ask:

One way I can show kindness without touching an animal is:

Family challenge: With a grown-up, check your own animal's care supplies—or learn what a local shelter actually needs before planning a donation. Never visit or approach an unfamiliar animal without adult guidance.