

## Pet Protectors play – Changing Places



Setting the scene: It is morning in the park and the *Pet Protectors* gang are hanging out and having a chat.

**Amber:** (Gets up and approaches the audience) Hello, my name is Amber. I am a very intelligent cat, and I like to look good.

**Pickles:** (Gets up and approaches the audience) I am Pickles, I am a rabbit and I love to exercise; I am very fit and healthy.

**Dodger:** (Gets up and approaches the audience) I am a Guinea Pig and my name is Dodger. I really enjoy hanging around with my friends and skateboarding, I think it is so much fun.

**Sparky:** (Gets up and approaches the audience) And last but not least, I am Sparky the dog, I am the youngest of the gang and I have lots and lots of energy.

**Amber:** You are going to hear a story about a very serious issue.

(As Amber talks the rest of the gang go offstage and sit in the front row with the audience)

I want to talk about some people who do not look after their pets properly.

**Sparky:** Surely everyone looks after their pets. If they have a pet they love them, don't they?

**Pickles:** Amber is right, not all people look after their pets properly. But there are some really nice people around who do love their pets. People called *Pet Protectors*.

**Amber:** That's right, the *Pet Protectors* are really nice people who look after their pets – here come some of them.

(Amber moves to one side as the *Pet Protectors* enter, followed by SuperVet.)

**Pet Protectors:** Enter singing their song.

**Amber:** Hey SuperVet, what are you doing here?



**SuperVet:** I am with the *Pet Protectors* as we have been talking about what pets need to be happy and healthy. Does anybody here know what a pet needs to be happy and healthy?

(Hopefully some people from the audience will give some suggestions; if not the *Pet Protectors* animals can give some answers.)

We have also been trying to talk to the *Pet Neglecters*. They don't look after their pets, I saw them earlier and they are really miserable animals.

**Sparky:** Surely there is not a group of people that horrible?

**SuperVet:** Look, here they are.

(*Pet Neglecters* enter with their pets all looking bedraggled. Pets sit in cages, the dog is tied to a tree and they all look very unhappy).

(The *Pet Protectors* can't believe what they see; they go and sit next to their pets.)

**Pet Neglecters:** We are the *Pet Neglecters*, look at our pets, they are miserable.

**Neglected Pets:** (A sentence is said by a pet.) We don't like our owners. They neglect us. Sometimes they even forget to feed us. They don't show us any attention. They just don't care.

**Pet Neglecters:** Yeah, well we want time to play; having fun and staying out all day. We have dogs that we don't walk and we have rabbits out in the cold, cats that are starving and mice that have no room.

**Dog:** But don't you see, I need a walk and I need a wee!  
(Crosses his legs)

**Pet Neglecters:** We've got rabbits, mice and cats. They can look after themselves, while we play in the park with our pals.

**Cat:** (Meows) They put me out in the snow and rain and don't want to let me in again.

**Budgie:** Tweet, tweet, I am a Budgie and they keep me in a tiny cage.

**Fish:** I am a fish and I have to live in a slimy, green tank; it is very dirty!



(The lights go down, hours have passed and the *Pet Neglecters* have been out all day. The *Pet Neglecters* are on one side of the stage talking.)



**Pet Protectors:** (They approach the Pet Neglecters.) What are you doing, your pets are suffering; don't you care?

**Pet Neglecters:** No we don't, why should we care?

**Pet Protectors:** (Huddle together) What can we do? These Pet Neglecters need to be taught a lesson. It's not right that their animals are suffering!

I know, says one of the Pet Protectors, where is SuperVet? He can help!

**SuperVet:** I am here (he approaches the gang) What's wrong?

**Pet Protectors:** The Pet Neglector pets aren't being treated properly, the Pet Neglecters don't care about them and they need to see how they make their pets feel.

**SuperVet:** (Turns to the audience) I am going to need your help. I am going to do some magic, to show the Pet Neglecters how badly they treat their pets. We need to say the words 'Vice Versa', lots of times, starting very quietly and then getting louder. Repeat after me: Vice Versa, Vice Versa, Vice Versa, Vice Versa, Vice Versa, Vice Versa, Vice Versa. (Continue until the whole audience is saying the words loudly.)

(There is a flash of light and a roll of drums. The Pet Neglecters and their pets go offstage and come back on having swapped roles. The Pet Neglecters are now unhappy, stuck in small cages and tied to a tree.)

**Neglected Pets:** Now we are in charge. We will see how you like being mistreated!  
(Talking to the Pet Neglecters)

(Pet Neglecters pets laugh and move off stage, the lights come up and then start to dim again.)

**Amber:** The Pet Neglecters pets have been away all night and most of the day. The Pet Neglecters are feeling very sorry for themselves. Oh, here come their pets.

(Pet Neglecters pets enter)

**Pet Neglecters:** Hey, help us (all together). One by one:

I want to go to the toilet.  
I am hungry.  
I think I've got fleas.  
My teeth ache.  
I've got a cough.  
My stomach hurts.  
I want a walk.  
I need somewhere comfy to sleep.

**Pet Neglecters pets:** Well we don't care, we are having fun.

**Pet Neglecters:** Please, please, please help us.



Chant: Oh please help us, we're so sad.  
We didn't mean to be so bad.  
OK, we didn't give our pets the care they needed.

Even though they cried and pleaded.  
Forgive us please, forgive us please.  
We are so very sorry!

(They all cry)

**SuperVet:** (He enters the stage and turns to the audience)  
Shall we forgive them? Shall we give them another chance?

(Hopefully the audience will say yes)

OK, I need your help again. Can anyone remember the magic words we used earlier?

(Hopefully someone from the audience will shout out the words)

Good we need to chant it like we did before. Except this time we need to be much louder.

Repeat after me: Vice Versa, Vice Versa, Vice Versa, Vice Versa, Vice Versa (keep chanting until the audience is chanting the words loudly).

(A flash of light and a roll of drums, Pet Neglecters and their pets leave the stage and return in their normal roles, except the Pet Neglecters are feeding, brushing and playing with their pets. The Pet Protectors and the gang come onstage.)

**Dodger:** Now the thoughtless Pet Neglecters have become kind Pet Protectors. They have had a fright and now they've learned to do what's right.

**Pickles:** If you've got a pet at home, a great big dog or a tiny mouse; remember, they need your care and they want you to be there – to give them what they need to eat.

**Sparky:** Not too little and not too much. Remember to groom them with a comb or brush.

**Amber:** Keep them clean, don't be mean.

**SuperVet:** Take some notice, if they are ill. And make a promise that you will.

**Whole gang (including pet protectors):** Always be your pet's best friend!

