




After Waldo hadn't cooked for two months, he came up with a plan that he thought would work. He decided to get a job and earn money so that he could pay for the food that he cooked. That was part of his plan, but not all of it. He also planned to fix up the garage so that he could cook there and sleep there. Then he could have animals around to eat his cooking, but they wouldn't disturb the neighbors or disturb his parents.

Waldo didn't tell anybody about his plan. He just put his plan into action. First, he got a job. Actually, he tried three jobs before he found one that he liked.

 Waldo's first job was delivering newspapers. He didn't like that job because he had to get up very early in the morning. The second job that he got was cleaning up in a shoe store. He hated that job. All he did was take boxes of shoes from the shelves and dust the boxes. Then he would sweep the floor in the back room. It was the most boring job in the world, but Waldo would have kept that job if he hadn't found the third job. He would have kept working in the shoe store because he liked earning money more than he hated dusting boxes. So he dusted boxes and dusted boxes and  dusted boxes. The box dusting went on for two weeks.

Then, one day after work, he was walking home thinking about what a terrible job he had. Suddenly, he heard a dog barking. He turned toward the barking and noticed that he was in front of a pet shop. Waldo looked at the dog that was barking. He said to himself, "I have seen that dog in my yard before." The dog continued to bark. At last the owner of the pet store went over to the dog's cage. "Stop that barking," the  owner shouted. But the dog didn't stop.

Waldo walked inside the pet shop. The dog began wagging his tail. Waldo looked at the owner, and before he knew what he was saying, he said, "I can help you keep those animals happy."

The owner looked at Waldo. She was a tall woman who wore glasses. "What did you say?" she asked.

"I said that I can help you make these animals happy," Waldo said. Then he kept on talking. He hadn't planned to make a big speech, but the speech came out. He told the owner that people like to buy happy pets, not pets that bark or cry. He told her that more people would stop and look in the window if the animals looked friendly and did funny tricks. Then he told her that he knew how to make the animals happy.

"How can you do that?" she asked.