



# The dog who lost her coat

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Published by  
**The Humane Education Trust**



[www.naturebased.education](http://www.naturebased.education)

ISBN 978-0-9814072-2-7

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## Meet the friends

Tebogo liked to play with his friends, Siza and Shado. They walked all over the neighbourhood, playing games with other children and going to the Spaza shop when they had some money. Tebogo's dog, Lana, always went with them.

One day, Siza said: "Tebogo, Lana is scratching a lot.

Perhaps she has fleas." Lana's hair started to fall out. In the beginning it was just a little bit, here and there, but it became worse.

Tebogo

Siza

Shado



Tebogo's mother bought some flea powder at the shop. "Put some of this on her and wash her bedding," said the man behind the counter.

Tebogo and his mother did as the man said, but Lana went on scratching. Worse still, people began to look at Lana and laugh.

"Look at Tebogo's dog!" they shouted. "Tebogo, your dog is naked!"

By this time, Lana had lost most of her hair. She didn't have fun any more. Tebogo was very sad for Lana. Winter was coming and now she had no hair to keep her warm.



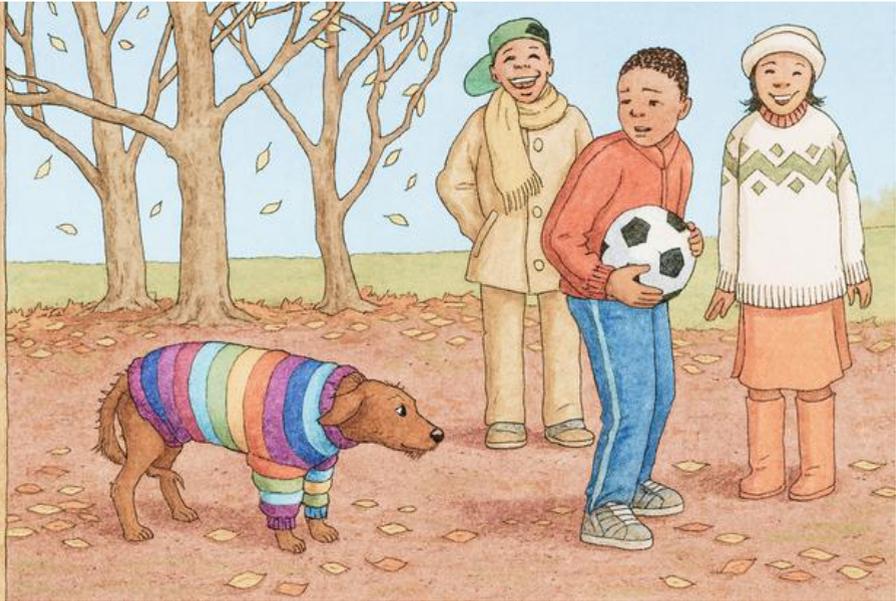


Tebogo's older sister, Sindi, was at college. One Friday she came home from campus with a brown paper parcel.

"I have a present for Lana," Sindi said. "I knitted it myself."

Tebogo opened the parcel. Inside was a striped jersey!  
"Haau!" said Tebogo. "I didn't know dogs could wear clothes."

He put the jersey on Lana straight away. When Siza and Shado saw Lana in her jersey, they laughed and laughed. Tebogo became angry and went away by himself.



“What's so funny?” he thought sadly. “Maybe they are not really my friends.”

That night Lana scratched so much in her jersey that, by morning, it was ruined. Tebogo had to unwind the tangled wool from her paws. Nothing seemed to help poor Lana.

But mother had an idea. “Take Lana to the animal welfare clinic and see if they can help her,” she said.

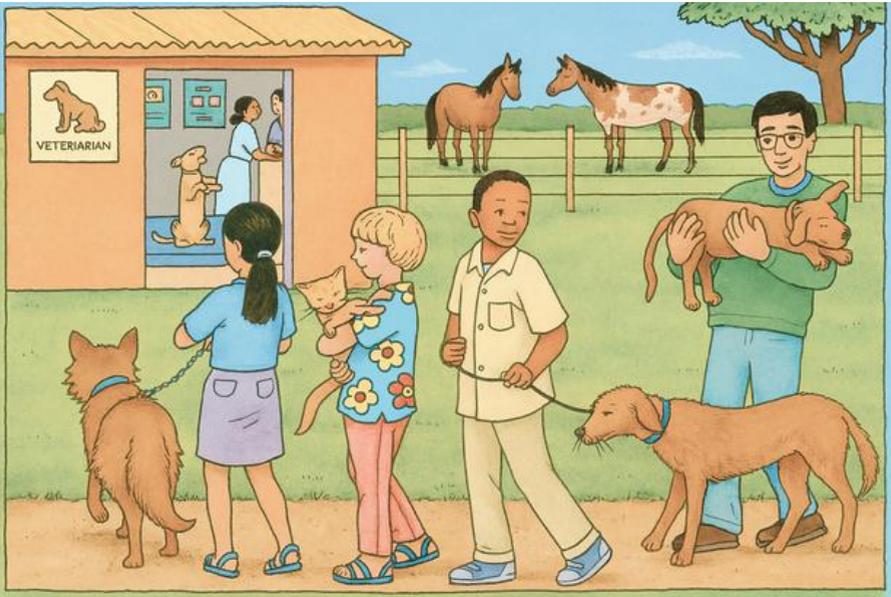
The animal clinic was open on Wednesdays. Tebogo put Lana on a lead and waited in the queue with many other people and their pets.

## At the Veterinarian

When the veterinarian saw Lana, she said: "Oh, what a bad case of mange. She's got fleas and ticks too!"

She picked Lana up and put her on the table. She took a skin scraping from Lana and gave her an injection. Lana gave a little yelp, but she did not try to bite the vet.

"Good dog, Lana," said the vet. "That will begin to heal your skin." Then she put Lana in a big tub full of water and special medicine.



Lana did not like being in the bath but the vet washed her all over, even her face and ears, to get rid of the fleas and ticks that were troubling her.

“Now I want you to bring Lana back every week for an injection until her hair has grown again,” the vet told Tebogo. “Please wash her blanket every week as well,” she said.

The vet then showed Tebogo something very interesting. She pointed to an instrument called a microscope. The vet had put the skin scraping from Lana on a piece of glass under the microscope. She told Tebogo to look into the eyepiece.



"Aaah!" yelled Tebogo, "I can see monsters running around."

"Those bugs are too small to see with the naked eye but under the microscope they look much bigger," said the vet. "They have been eating Lana's skin and giving her mange. That is why she has been scratching so much."



## Lana finds her coat

In time, Lana's hair began to grow back again. Tebogo's mother added a teaspoon of cooking oil to Lana's food to make her hair soft. By the middle of winter she was beautiful and fluffy.

When they went back to the clinic, the vet said to Tebogo: "Lana is cured. You have looked after her very well."

Lana was a happy and playful dog once more. She no longer scratched. She played with Tebogo, Siza and Shado in the neighbourhood again. Tebogo decided he would study very hard so that when he grew up, he could become a vet and heal sick animals.

During the Spring, exciting things happened. There was a dog show at the high school. Tebogo brushed Lana's coat until it shone. There were twenty dogs at the show. Some could do tricks. Some were very big and some were small.

Tebogo walked round the judging ring with Lana on a lead. Other children did the same. The judges looked at the dogs and made notes in their books.

Finally, the prizes were given out. "The prize for the dog with the best coat," said the judge, "goes to Lana!"

Everybody cheered and clapped and whistled. Proudly, Tebogo led Lana up to the judges to get the rosette and a big bag of dog food. Lana's tail wagged. She knew she looked wonderful.

The next exciting thing was the school prize-giving. Tebogo had come first in Mathematics and Natural Science. He knew now that with hard work, his dream to become a vet could come true.

“Lana, life is good,” he said, stroking his best friend's head.

Lana sat up smiling. She knew that already.



## ACTIVITY

The dog who lost her coat :  
complete the sentence



## ACTIVITY

Let's put the wag back in Lana's tail  
by meeting all of her needs



This book promotes the development of compassion,  
respect and justice for all life, through literacy.



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