

Opowiadanie na konkurs Through the Eyes of Animals

Justyna Kwiatkowska
KI. II D

A THREE- PAW AND THE RAINBOW

Hey, my name is Henry and I'm a chinchilla, I'm very special because I only have three paws. I lost one in an accident, I tore my tendons and my paw does not move. My owner looks after me very well and she is worried. She spoils me with treats and always plays with me after school.

As usually, I woke up early in my well-kept cage. I combed the gray fluffy fur with one paw and stretched out. Oh! It is time to make some noise so that she would see that I am not sleeping anymore. I immediately took a piece of cage into my teeth and began to shake with it. When she started to walk towards me, I went to the door of the cage and waited for her to take me out. I was happy that it was time for the morning dose of the patting and conversation.

I jumped on her shoulder when she hugged me but she behaved differently than usual. She took me off immediately and put me close to her on the ground. It is logical that I ran towards her but halfway she lifted me up and began to touch my upper paw. As usually I "barked" a few times but I didn't take away my paw.

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Something was wrong but I didn't care too much. She quickly put me back in the cage, I wasn't happy with that but I couldn't do anything. I started to eat my hay and the food she gave me the previous day. I heard her say:
„Bye bye, Henio, have a nice day”.

Unfortunately I didn't see her because the cage was in another room but I just sat down next to the door and wished her a nice day with a stamp of the back paws. The day passed quite quickly, I ate hay and tried to eat from the bowl but I had a problem raising the seeds, so I focused on granules.

Suddenly I heard the key sound in the lock! That's her! She's back already! I stopped eating and waited for her to enter the room and hug me. She ran into the room and threw the bag on the bed and immediately ran to me. She hastily opened the door for me and continued cuddling, I didn't resist hugging her. But she smelled different, she smelled sad. She began to touch my upper paw and said something I did not understand. I only hid in her hair and closed my eyes.

Unexpectedly, she put me in a transporter! I hate it as it's small. She took me to the vet when I damaged my upper paw so now I realised we also were going there. I recognized the place because of its smell. It was an unpleasant smell. When our time came, it took me away. I immediately hid in her hair pretending I was gone. Unfortunately, the lady in the white apron took me and began to touch my paw. I started to bite her in her hand but she didn't let me go. I didn't know when but I got an injection suddenly. It hurt me a lot and I started to bark so that my lady would take me away. It worked fortunately as a moment later I was on her hands. Her smell always calms me down. Stroking my fur, she said something in a nice voice to me. I didn't listen to her, I focused only on her heartbeat and smell. When we got home, she played with me all day and I got delicious treats.

The next day she greeted me as always but immediately after the morning hugs I got injections. I started to fight because I felt extremely hurt in my little fluffy body. Immediately after doing it, she kissed me and told me that she loved me. I hugged her but she put me in a cage and went to school.

The days went by and I got unpleasant injections and sweet pills that I gladly ate. I felt weak but I always had the strength to get up and play with my lady. But she wasn't herself....She was quiet and calm like never before, she stroked my head and said that she loved me very much. I enjoyed it and appreciated her love.

When I once lay in her arms, a wet drop fell on my velvet fur. I inquisitively raised my head and saw that my owner's eyes were red and full of salty tears. She looked at me ... she looked at me with love and sorrow. I wanted to get up and lick her tears as I always did but I had no strength. I just lay cuddling up to her, slowly closed my eyes and fell asleep.

When I woke up there was another day which meant a new portion of drugs that she had been giving me for several days. I didn't tear loose anymore I didn't have strength. She put me on her shoulder and kissed my head so much that my fur was wet with her tears. I haven't washed myself in the last three days, I haven't had the strength to roll in the sand.

That day my owner didn't go to school, I thought she was sick. I spent the day in her arms. She cried a lot but I bravely comforted her by cuddling in her. She sang to me a song that I liked very much, I fell asleep with her on her bed and my dreams were calm. I heard her heart beating that calmed my own little heart and my thoughts.

After a nap I woke up in the transporter. I was lying on my towel and I didn't see the point in getting up. Where was she carrying me? We entered the clinic and immediately I recognized the specific smell. After a moment of waiting, our turn came and we entered the office. I heard my lady talking to the doctor and I understood that she had to sign something. I wasn't worried because she usually signed various documents. She took me out of my container and passed me to the vet who gave me another injection. There was only one today. Hugging my mistress, I heard her heart beating and it wasn't as calm as always, I felt her breathing hard. A few tears dropped on my fur and then she raised me up and kissed my head.

My eyes began to close slowly, I felt very sleepy but I didn't know why - I just got up from a nap. I heard her speak to me in a breaking voice:
„Thank you, Henry, good night, angel.”

I was wondering how she knew I wanted to sleep. She put me on her chest and listening to her heartbeat I felt a safe and comfortable. I don't even know when I fell asleep in her arms.

When I woke up I didn't see her anywhere. I saw only a rainbow bridge and bright light in front of me. I was scared because my mistress wasn't with me. But I decided to approach the bridge.

When I came through the rainbow, I noticed that I had four paws again and nothing hurt me. But I felt sad because my lady was nowhere to be found. I looked down and saw my lady hugging something. She hugged me...
Suddenly I understood what happened, The vet said it was a prudent decision and I would only suffer bigger and bigger pains. Seeing how depressed my owner was, I lay down on the edge of the cloud and looked at her. I knew that she did not want me to suffer and it was the a hard decision she took. Since then, I have been looking down at her and visiting her in her dreams.

I am sure that one special we will meet again. I'll be waiting on the other side of the rainbow bridge.

[Based on true story]

