

“We’ll have to take X-rays to locate the bone,” the doctor told them. An assistant carried Piper off to the X-ray room. The Duncans waited anxiously for someone to return.

At last the door opened and Dr. Carlson invited them into the treatment room where he showed them the X-ray pictures.

“You were right, Mrs. Duncan,” he said. “A piece of bone is lodged deep down in Piper’s esophagus. We have a specialist in bone removal here. He will operate on her, and she’ll have to stay overnight in the hospital. I’ll call you early in the morning and tell you how she is. She’ll probably be out of trouble and I expect her to recover nicely,” he added with a reassuring smile.

That evening, Mr. and Mrs. Duncan were terribly upset and worried about their beloved pet. They didn’t want to leave her at the hospital overnight, but there was nothing else they could do. She needed to be in the doctor’s expert care.

“We’ve always tried hard to keep Piper from picking up dangerous garbage in Lizzie’s yard,” Mrs. Duncan said sadly. “Why did this have to happen?”

“Now, now,” Mr. Duncan comforted his wife. “Dr. Carlson said Piper is going to be all right. We can’t protect her from everything harmful that might happen to her. We’ll do the best we can to teach her safety rules. Even if