

The Girl and the Friendship Farm



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On a bright Saturday morning, Maya pulled on her yellow rain boots and packed her canvas satchel with a sketchbook and pencils. Her teacher had told the class about a special place called the Friendship Farm, where animals need love and care. Maya wanted to see it for herself. She wondered what the animals would be like.



When Maya arrived, a friendly farmer welcomed her. 'These animals need kindness every day,' the farmer said. 'Would you like to help?' Maya nodded eagerly. She saw rabbits hopping in a green hutch, a cream-coloured pony with a red halter, and a hen house with a rusty brown hen and fluffy yellow chicks. Her heart felt full of excitement.



Maya opened her sketchbook and drew the farm. She wanted to remember everything. 'I can feed the rabbits first,' she said. The rabbits had soft grey and white fur, long pink-lined ears, and twitchy noses. They hopped toward her, looking hungry. Maya knew that feeding time must happen every day, no matter what.



Maya filled a basket with fresh greens and opened the green hutch door. The rabbits hopped over, their fluffy tails wiggling. 'Here you go, little ones,' she said softly. They nibbled the leaves happily. Maya watched them eat and made a note in her sketchbook: rabbits need fresh food and clean water every single day. She felt glad to help.



Next, Maya visited the pony. The pony had a shaggy cream coat, a flaxen mane falling over gentle amber eyes, and a white star on its forehead. A soft blue brush hung nearby. 'May I brush you?' Maya asked. The pony nuzzled her hand. Maya brushed slowly and gently, and the pony stood still, enjoying every stroke. She learned that calm, steady care builds trust.



Then Maya went to the hen house. The rusty brown hen with a red comb clucked protectively. Tiny yellow chicks peeked out from a straw nest. 'I'll clean your home,' Maya said. She swept the floor and put fresh straw in the nest. The hen watched with bright eyes. Maya moved slowly so the chicks wouldn't be scared.



One chick hopped close to Maya. She wanted to hold it, but remembered to be gentle. She cupped her hands and let the chick snuggle in. Its tiny heart beat fast. 'Shh, it's okay,' she whispered. The chick calmed down. Maya saw that holding a chick gently was important. She added it to her sketchbook notes.



Maya gave the hen fresh water in a clean dish. The hen drank and clucked softly. The chicks gathered around. Maya noticed that the water bottle for the rabbits was low, so she refilled it too. She realized that kindness meant helping every day, not just once. Her sketchbook filled with drawings and notes about each animal's needs.



As the sun began to set, Maya sat on a hay bale and looked at her sketches. She had drawn the rabbits, the pony, and the hen with her chicks. But she wanted to do more. 'Visitors should know how to care for the animals,' she thought. 'I can make a care guide!' Her eyes sparkled with an idea.



Maya worked on her care guide all week. She drew bright pictures of the rabbits with their greens, the pony with the blue brush, and the hen with fresh water. She wrote simple words: 'Hold a chick gently. Give fresh water every day. Brush the pony slowly.' She used big letters and colorful crayons. The guide was almost ready.



On Saturday, Maya brought her care guide to the farm. She showed it to the farmer. 'What a wonderful idea!' the farmer said. 'We can hang it by the gate so everyone can see.' Maya smiled. Together, they put the guide on a wooden post. It showed exactly how to hold a chick and give fresh water. Visitors began to read it.



Soon, everyone at the Friendship Farm used Maya's care guide. Children learned to feed the rabbits and brush the pony gently. They cleaned the hen house and gave fresh water. The animals were happy and healthy. The pony's coat shone, the rabbits' hutch was tidy, and the chicks chirped cheerfully. Maya felt proud of her work.



The farmer thanked Maya. 'You've taught us all that true friendship means caring with your hands and your heart,' the farmer said. Maya looked at the animals. The pony nickered softly, the rabbits twitched their noses, and the hen clucked contentedly. She knew that helping every day made a big difference.



Maya visited the farm every week. She always brought her sketchbook and added new drawings. Sometimes she showed other children how to hold a chick gently. They listened carefully. The care guide helped everyone remember what to do. The animals trusted Maya because she was calm and kind.



One day, a new girl arrived at the farm. She looked unsure. Maya smiled and said, 'Would you like to help me feed the rabbits?' The girl nodded. Maya showed her the care guide. Together, they filled the food basket and opened the green hutch door. The rabbits hopped over happily. Maya felt warm inside.



As Maya walked home in her yellow rain boots, she thought about the Friendship Farm. She had learned that kindness means helping every day. True friendship is caring with your hands and your heart. Her sketchbook was full of drawings and notes, but the best picture was the happy animals. She couldn't wait to visit again.