

The Boy and the Rescue Rabbit



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Leo had always wanted a pet of his own. One sunny morning, he visited the animal shelter with his mom. A small cream-white rabbit sat quietly in a corner, its long ears tipped with grey. The rabbit had big glossy amber eyes and a tiny blue collar with a silver bell. "Hello, little one," Leo whispered softly. The rabbit wiggled its pink nose and hopped closer.



Leo knew that bringing a pet home was a big job. He did not want to rush. He sat down with a sheet of paper and made a careful plan. First, he would build a safe play area. Next, he would add cozy hiding places. Then he would buy food and a water bowl. "I will get everything ready before my rabbit comes home," he said proudly.



Leo pulled on his mustard-yellow t-shirt and green shorts. He clipped his small red tool pouch onto his belt. In the yard, he found a corner with soft grass and a little shade. "This is the perfect spot," he said. He measured the space with his arms and drew a picture in his notebook. He drew a fence, a tunnel, and a tiny wooden house.



On Saturday, Leo and his dad built the play area together. They hammered low wooden walls so the rabbit could not wander off. Leo sanded every edge until it was smooth. He checked the fence twice to make sure it was strong. "No sharp bits, no small gaps," he said, nodding. His curly black hair bounced as he worked.



Next came the hiding places. Leo placed a hollow log on one side and a small wooden box with a round door on the other. He tucked a leafy plant beside the fence for a shady corner. He set a soft towel inside the box so it felt cozy. "Every rabbit needs a secret spot," Leo said with a grin.



Leo did not forget about safety. He moved the play area away from busy paths and loud noises. He pushed the fence deep into the ground. He checked that the plants were safe for rabbits to nibble. He hung a little sign that said, "Rabbit at Play." Finally, he set a water bowl in the shade and filled it with cool, clean water.



At last, the shelter said the rabbit was ready. Leo held the small rabbit in his two hands and felt its heart beat fast. The silver bell on the blue collar gave a tiny ring. "Welcome home," Leo said gently. The rabbit sniffed his shirt and wiggled its round pink nose. Leo smiled his gap-toothed smile.



Leo carried the rabbit to the play area and set it down softly. The rabbit sat still for a moment, its grey-tipped ears standing up tall. Then it took one hop, then another. It sniffed the hollow log and peeked into the wooden box. Leo sat quietly and watched, giving the rabbit time to explore.



Soon the rabbit was hopping in happy circles. It darted behind the leafy plant and vanished into the cozy box. Leo laughed and waited. When the rabbit hid, the boy knew just where to look. "Found you!" he called, and the fluffy white tail wiggled. The rabbit hopped out and nudged his hand.



Every morning, Leo filled the food bowl and the water bowl. Every evening, he swept the play area clean with a small broom. He checked the fence and the hiding places for anything out of place. "A clean home is a safe home," he told the rabbit. The rabbit listened with its long ears and blinked its amber eyes.



One afternoon, the rabbit dashed into the hollow log and would not come out. Leo did not worry. He knew this hiding place well. He knelt down and spoke in a soft, calm voice. "It's all right, little friend. I am right here." Slowly, the rabbit peeked out and hopped into his open hands.



Leo watched over the rabbit during playtime every single day. When the wind blew hard, he moved the box into the shade. When the sun grew hot, he added fresh water. He learned his rabbit's sounds and its favorite spots. Caring for a pet, he discovered, meant paying attention every day.



Leo's friends came to visit and saw the play area. "How did you know your rabbit would hide there?" asked his friend Mia. Leo pointed to his notebook of plans. "I got everything ready first," he said. "When you plan ahead, you know just what to do." His freckles crinkled as he smiled. The rabbit hopped over and nudged her shoe.



By now, the rabbit knew every corner of its home. It loved the hollow log, the wooden box, and the shady plant. It loved the sound of Leo's voice and the ring of its own little bell. Leo felt proud of the good home he had made. Responsible care, he learned, meant thinking ahead and getting ready first.



The sun set behind the fence, and Leo sat beside the play area. The rabbit curled up in the cozy box, its grey-tipped ears soft and still. Leo tossed one last bit of sweet hay inside. "Good night, little friend," he whispered. The silver bell gave a tiny ring, as if to say good night back.



Leo smiled as he walked inside. He had planned, built, cleaned, and cared. The rabbit was happy and safe, and that made his heart feel warm and full. He knew that every pet needs a home made with thought and love. Somewhere in the cozy box, a cream-white rabbit slept snugly, dreaming of carrots and hops. The boy slept too, proud of the good home he made.