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PROBLEM PETS

by David Hill (375 words)

"Is your pet hard to train?" asked Rik.

Jess sighed. "He's hopeless! He can't learn anything properly!"

"Same as mine," Ben told them. "She's the weirdest pet you'll ever meet!"

"You should see mine when we go for walks," Rik went. "He's always pulling on the leash! Or else he keeps stopping, or he heads off somewhere I don't want to go. He's seriously strange!"

"You should see mine when we play a stick-throwing game," said Jess. "He makes so much noise! Or else he goes rushing all over the place, or we have this big fight about getting the stick back. He's seriously silly!"

"You should see mine when we go swimming," Ben went. "She chucks herself into the water and sprays everyone! Or else she goes splashing round in big circles, or she makes heaps of noise. She's seriously embarrassing!"

"I wonder if anyone has a pet as silly as mine?" said Rik.

"I wonder if anyone has a pet as loud as mine?" said Jess.

"I wonder if anyone has a pet as mad as mine?" said Ben.

"Mine does try hard," Rik went. "He's good about eating. He doesn't make a fuss, or leave bits of food lying everywhere."

Jess nodded. "Mine is friendly. He likes to play, and he never sulks."

Rik nodded, too. "Mine is gentle. She doesn't bite, and I can trust her with the little ones."

"But mine is such a hard pet to train!" Rik went again. "I can't stop him from doing all this silly running around!"

"Same with mine," Jess said. "I can't train him to stop being noisy to people we meet in the street."

"And mine," went Ben. "I can't train her to go at the right speed, or to come when I call her."

"Will our pets ever be properly trained?" asked Rik.

"I don't think so," said Jess.

"Neither do I," said Ben.

Rik woofed sadly. Jess thumped her tail. Ben shook his head till his ears flapped.

“No,” they all sighed together. “There's nothing as impossible to train as humans!”
