



A New Friend at the Shelter

Jody Stevenson



David stands in front of the bright SPCA building on a sunny morning. He feels a little nervous but excited to start his first day as a volunteer. The colorful sign on the door welcomes everyone who wants to help animals.

Welcome to SPCA Animal Shelter



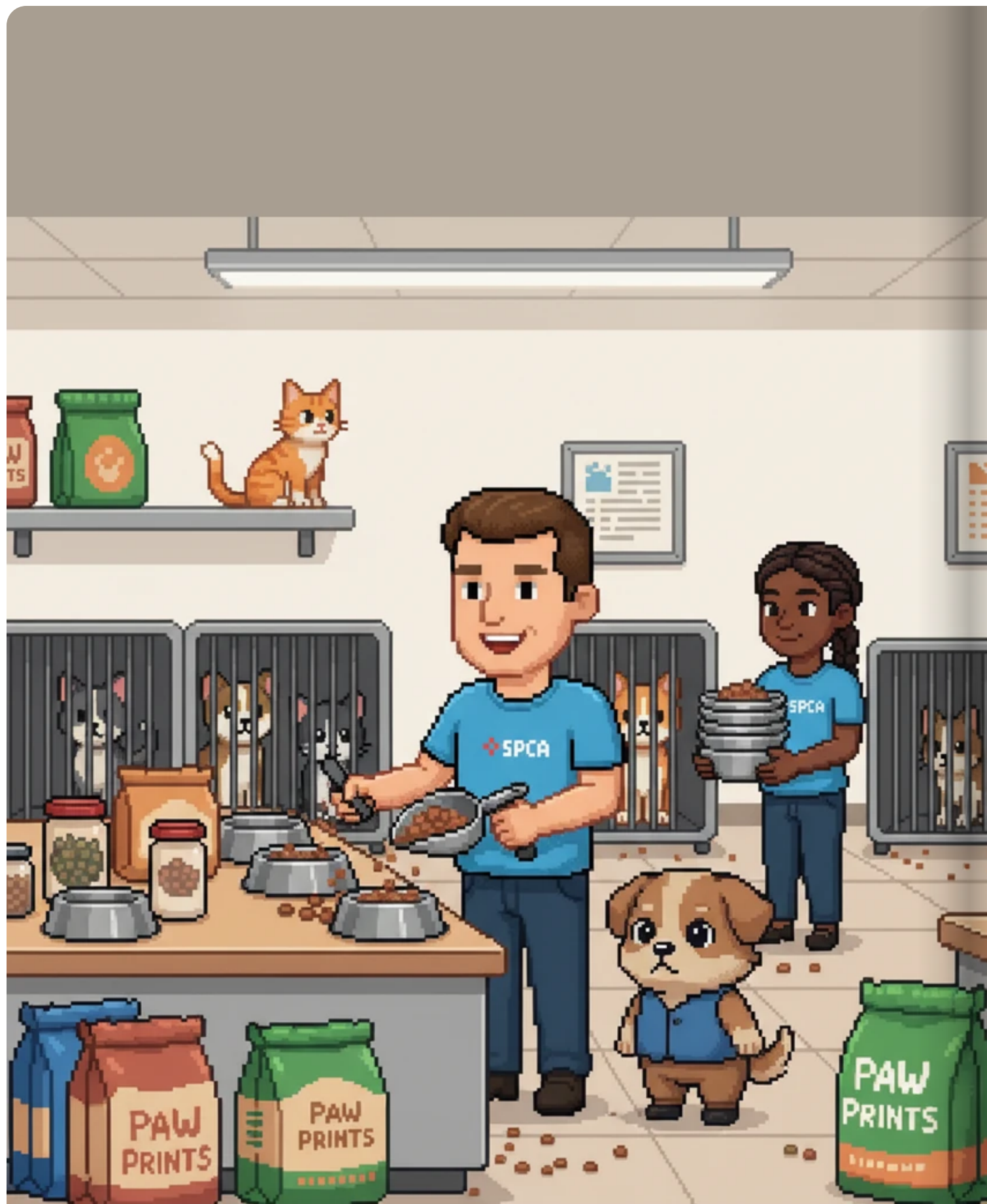
Inside the shelter, a friendly manager shows David where the animals live. He sees rows of cozy cages filled with dogs wagging their tails and cats resting on soft beds. David listens carefully as he learns how to keep the animals safe and happy.



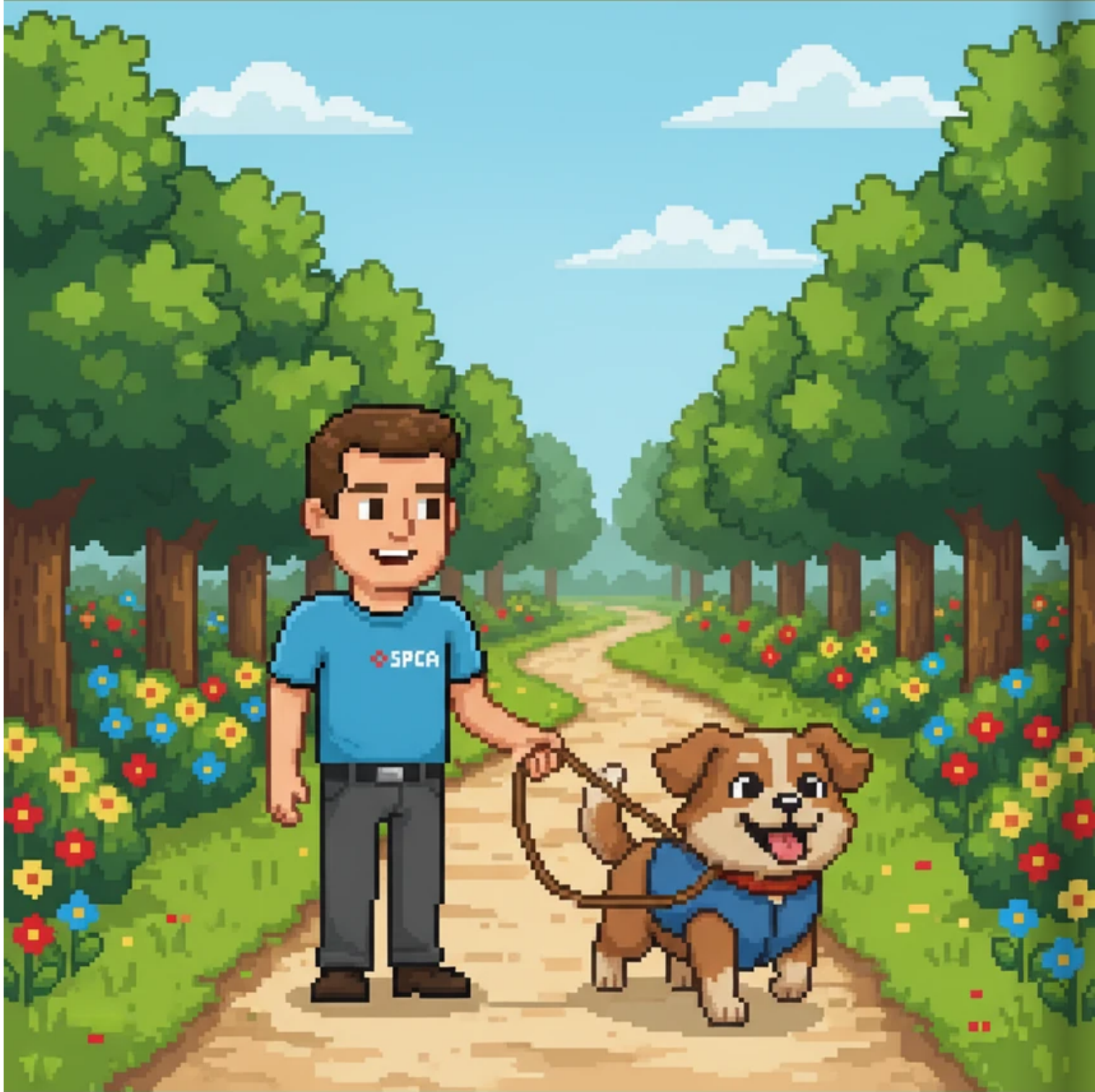
David starts his work by cleaning the cat room to keep it fresh and tidy. He puts down clean blankets and fills water bowls with cool, clear water. A small gray kitten watches him work and lets out a tiny, happy meow.



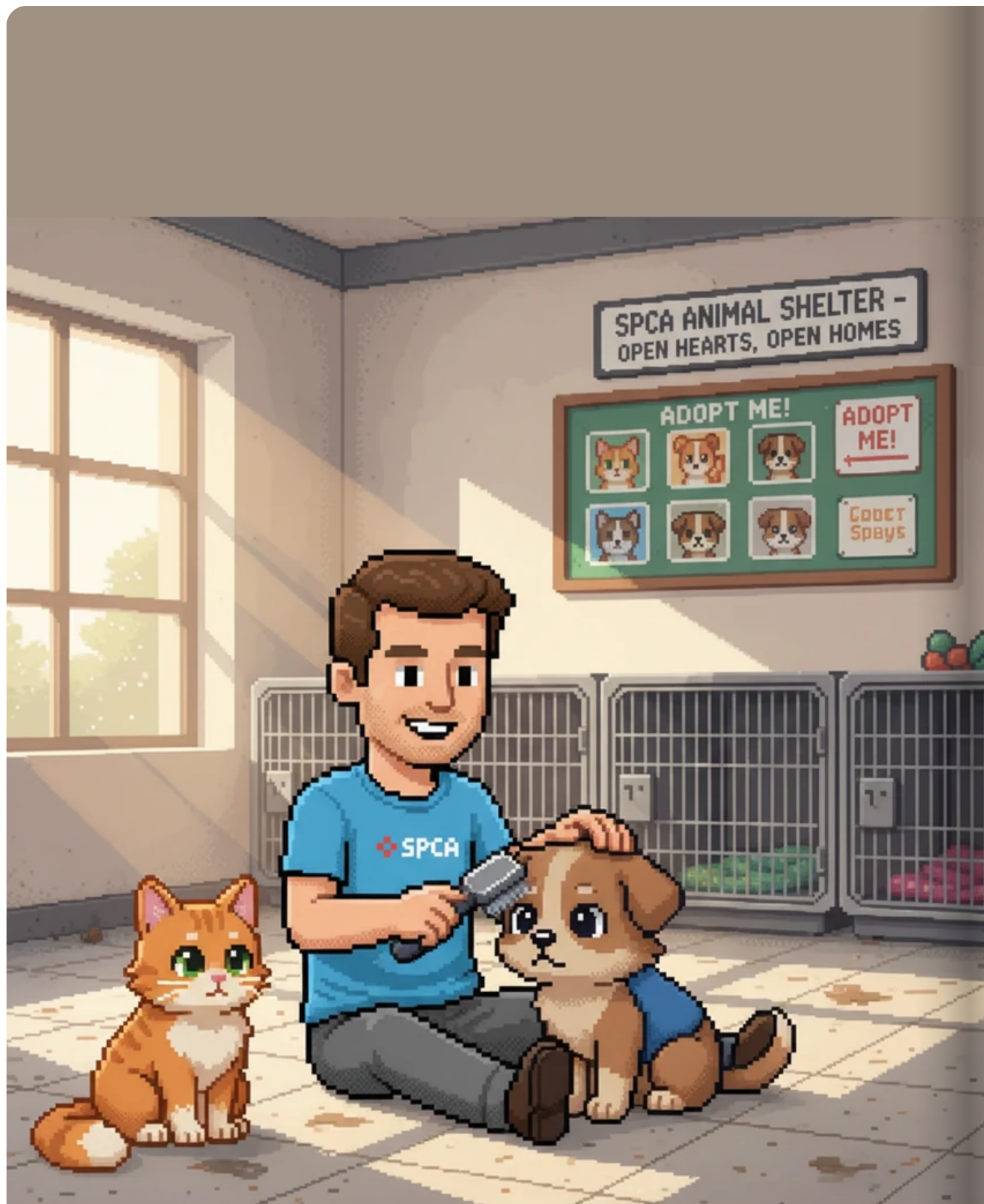
Next, David meets a shy dog named Buddy who is hiding in the corner of his kennel. David sits quietly on the floor and speaks in a soft, calm voice. After a few minutes, Buddy slowly walks over and licks David's hand.



It is lunch time for the animals, and David helps prepare their special meals. He carefully measures the food to make sure every dog and cat gets exactly what they need to stay healthy. The kitchen is busy, but David enjoys the important work.



David takes a large, energetic dog outside for a walk in the fresh air. They walk along a path lined with green trees and bright flowers. The dog looks up at David with a big smile and a wagging tail.



Back inside the shelter, David spends time brushing a long-haired cat. The cat purrs loudly as David gently removes tangles from her soft fur. Helping the animals look their best helps them find new homes faster.



A family visits the shelter looking for a new pet to join their home. David tells them all about how sweet and gentle Buddy the dog has been all day. He feels proud to help the family meet their potential new best friend.



As his shift ends, David sits on a bench and looks around at the quiet shelter. He realizes that even small acts of kindness can change an animal's life for the better. His heart feels full of joy and peace.



David signs his name on the volunteer schedule for next week. He says goodbye to the animals and the staff with a big smile on his face. He cannot wait to come back and help his furry friends again soon.