



Horseland is a wonderful sprawling ranch located in the middle of beautiful countryside. With a large stable, a tackroom, and best of all, an arena for training, Horseland is the greatest place around to board, groom, and show a horse. It's also the ideal spot for making lasting friendships. But high above the expansive ranch of Horseland, a section of the nearby forest shows signs of terrible destruction.





Charred branches litter the ground near the small lake, and the smell of smoke still hangs in the air—reminders of recent events. Three of Horseland’s animal residents, Shep, Teeny, and Angora, walk through the area, surveying the damage.

“Eww! What a mess!” exclaims Teeny.



The potbellied pig doesn't like anything messy or dirty.

Shep wrinkles his nose at the burnt smell in the air. "Who knew humans could do so much damage in one night?" he asks. The Australian shepherd herding dog often gives humans the benefit of the doubt, but seeing the destruction firsthand is shocking.

"Yeah, but they're *our* humans, remember?" Teeny points out. "Give them a break. Accidents happen."

"Hmph!" says Angora the cat. "Ever notice that when *responsible* humans are careful, there aren't nearly so many accidents?"

Shep gives her a puzzled look. "How would you know anything about responsibility?" he asks. "All you're responsible for is sleeping, eating, and grooming."

"Stop it!" Teeny says suddenly, fed up with Shep and Angora constantly arguing. "The most important thing is that our humans got home safe," she reminded them. "Don't you see that?"



Shep and Angora exchange looks. Teeny isn't often the logical one among them.

"I guess so," Shep admits.

"For once, I agree," says Angora.

Teeny smiles. "Thank you," she says, happy she made her point.

"Shep," says Angora, turning to the dog. "You're just lucky you didn't go along like you wanted to."

"I wish I had. Then I could have helped," Shep replies with a heavy sigh. "I remember the morning they left. . . ."

