A Shelter Story

What would it be like to work at a job helping animals? Working at an animal shelter means handling many different tasks. Which tasks below would a shelter worker handle? Circle each one. (Hint: Seven of the tasks should be circled.)

1. A lost dog is brought to the shelter. You notice she is wearing a collar, license, and tags. You notify her owners that you have found their dog.

2. A lion comes in to have his mane trimmed. “Wait right here,” you say. “I’ll get my comb, shampoo, and scissors.”

3. The mail arrives. Several of the letters are about a local pet shop. The writers say the animals are not being cared for properly. You decide to investigate.

4. “Please help me. My cat is stuck in a tree,” says a man over the phone. You send help and remind the owner to keep his cat safe indoors.

5. Last week you answered a complaint about a someone who was neglecting her horses. You talked with the owner about taking better care of her horses. You conduct a follow-up visit to check on the animals.

6. You rescue a swan with a broken wing. You take him to a wildlife rehabilitator.

7. A family is giving away free kittens. Their cat has not been spayed. You talk to them about the importance of spaying and neutering pets.

8. A herd of Pacific walruses arrives at the shelter. You take them on a field trip to a public swimming pool.

9. “I’d like to adopt a dog who needs a good home,” says a visitor to your shelter. You interview the visitor and show him the many wonderful pets waiting for a home.

On the back, write a story about a day in the life of an animal-shelter worker. Write the story in the first person, pretending you are the shelter worker.

Credit: NAHEE