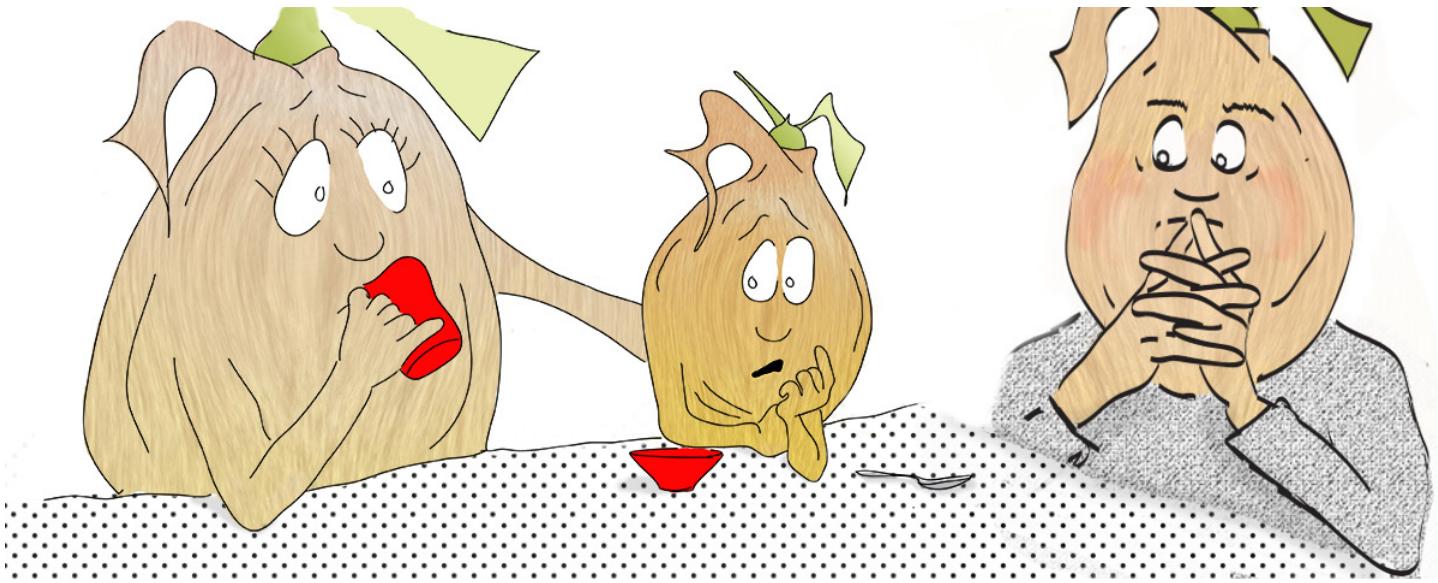




Onionhead Taking Care of His Pets





Onionhead went to his Mom and Dad and said; “I do not think you take good enough care of our dog Garlic Bud, our cat Celery Stick and our bird Carrot Top!”

So that night the family met at the table to discuss how, as a family, they could take better care of their pets.

Onionhead’s Dad said, “My little boy Onionhead, what is it that you feel we are doing wrong?”

Onionhead replied, “I do not want to hurt your feelings because you are such good parents to me, but I do feel you could do a better job with Garlic Bud, Celery Stick and Carrot Top.”

Mom answered, “Ok let’s have it....put it out there for us!”

Onionhead took the opportunity to go for the gusto and let them hear all his worries and concerns.

Number one:

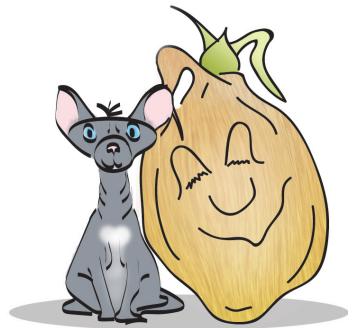
I don't like the food you feed Garlic Bud and Celery Stick. You don't take the time to find the best food with the most natural ingredients. You think they don't care and will eat anything....which they will....but I would like you to be as concerned for them as you are for me.

Number Two:

You take me to the dentist and you do not take them at all. I read that it is very important for animals to have their teeth done to avoid getting sick. Can we please make an appointment for them to get their teeth done? Pretty please, I don't want them to be sick.

Number Three:

You do not clean Celery Stick's litter box enough. Once a week is not sufficient. You need to clean it out every night and then changing the litter once a week is enough. I will help with this when I do not have so much homework. Then it will take no time at all.



Number four:

Celery Stick does not have enough toys. Also, she would love to sit in the window to see outside. It is good that we do not let her out, as it is far too dangerous. But she LOVES to look and see what is happening out there. Can we build her a little shelf to sit on at the window?

At this point Onionhead was afraid he had overstepped his power, so he looked up a little to see if he should continue. Seeing that Mom and Dad were not angry looking, he decided to gather his strength and go on.

Number five:

I do not think you make sure to give Garlic Bud her flea and tick medicine. I read that it is very important to give it once a month. You sometimes forget and let it go longer. I wish I could be in charge of that, but the little capsule is hard to open.

Number six:

You leave Garlic Bud out too long in the backyard when it is hot. That is not right. She gets too hot and is thirsty. And yes, you do not check her bowl to make sure it has enough water. Would you like to be left out in the heat? And with not enough water?



Number seven:

Once you left Garlic Bud in the car too long and it was hot. Mom I got very, very scared for her. Please do not do that again. Dogs can die from heat overload.

Number eight:

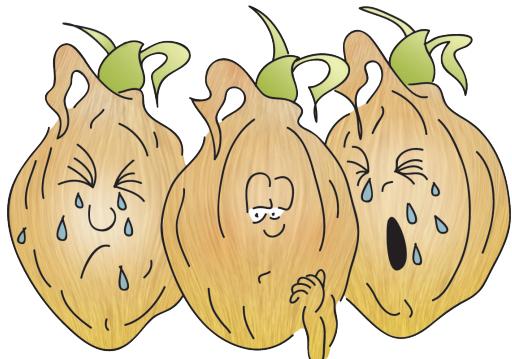
I also feel you do not wash their beds often enough. Don't you wash our sheets once a week? Well, why are they different? Aren't they part of our family?

Number nine:

And last but not least, I feel you do not give them enough love. They need pets and hugs...you always seem too busy. I sleep with them and give them tons of love but I worry when I am at school that they are overlooked.

I hope you are not mad at me. I just had to speak my truth. I wish I was home more to do all the things I want you to do. When I grow up, I promised them, I would take better care of them.

Oh yes....one more thing. Our bird, Carrot Top....you don't clean her cage enough. Every day, she needs her paper changed, clean water and fresh seed. I will try to get up earlier and do this for her.



Are you mad at me for being so straight with you? I was scared so the whole time I was talking, I was looking down. But when I looked up, I saw my parents were crying.

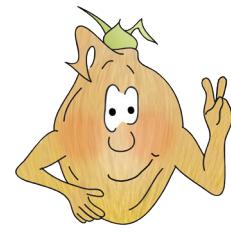
They said to me; “we are so proud of you Onionhead. You are right, we have not shown enough respect and care to our darling animals. And yes, they are part of our family. This was so wrong of us”.

Oh my...was I relieved!!!!!! I thought I was going to be in trouble. Instead we all sat down and made a list of each responsibility we could take on.

Mom had the most jobs and she promised me that she would take better care of all the things I mentioned. Dad said he would take them to the vet for their teeth and check ups. He also said he would build Celery Stick a window bench. I took on the job of cleaning Carrot Top's cage... which I LOVE to do.....but only after my homework is done.



Questionnaire



1: Do you have a pet? If so what?

2: What is your pet's name?

3: Did you think Onionhead had a good point in telling his Mom and Dad about taking better care of their pets?

4: If you have a pet, do you take good care of them? If so, how?

5: What did you learn from Onionhead, if anything?
