

SAVING ALISTAIR

by Roderick Fong

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"Today is your lucky day, little
guy. Let's meet your new friend."

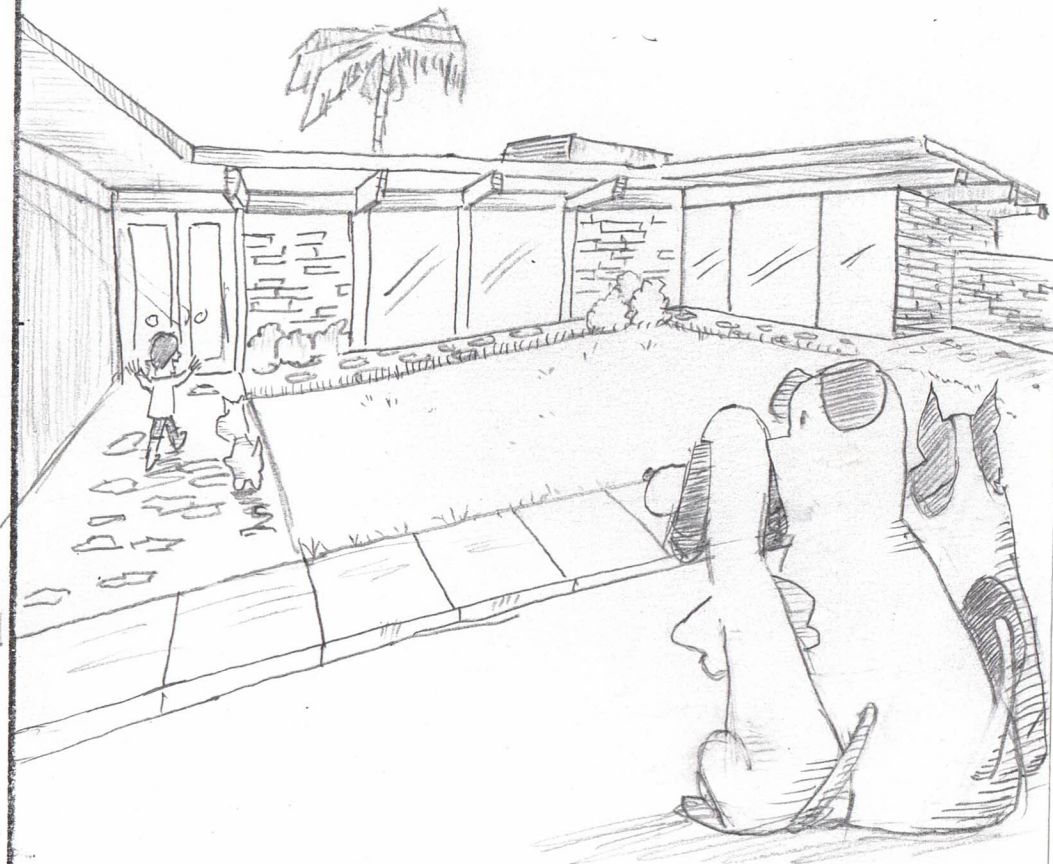


"You came prepared," said Officer Helter.
"Yep! I brought a green tartan GPS collar and a red leash," said Tiffany.
"And did you 'bring' a name?"
"I did! His name is..."



"...AUSTAIR! Welcome to your new home!" said Tiffany.

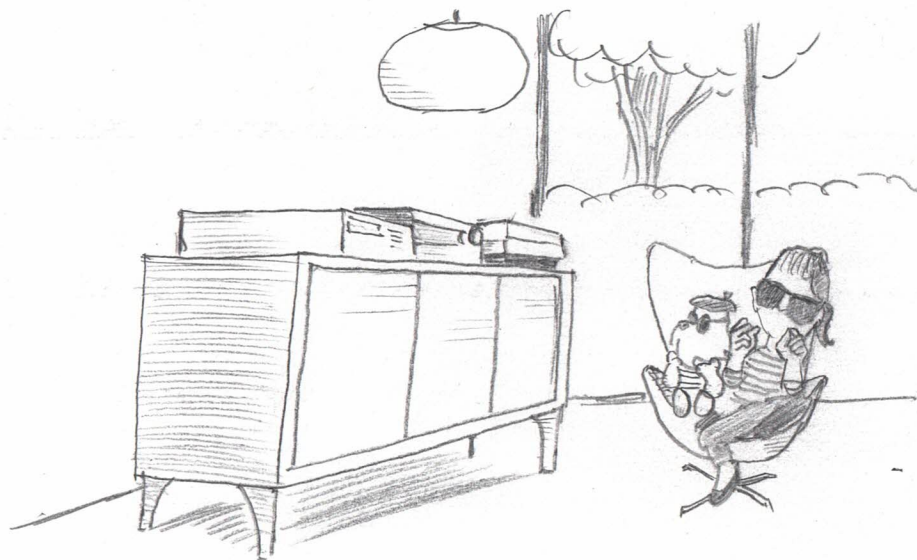
Alistair entered his new home, under the eyes of the local strays, Winnie, Bernie and Levi.



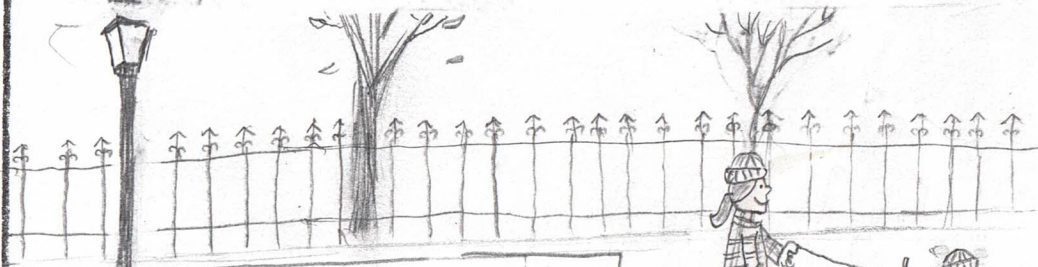
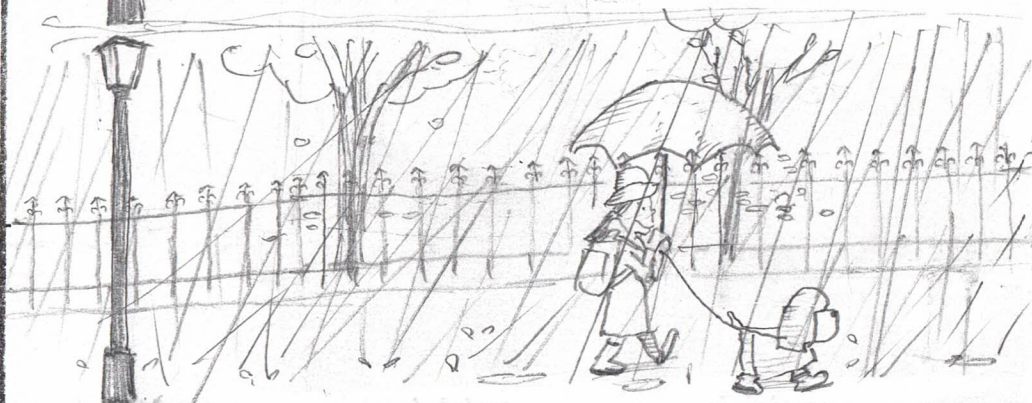
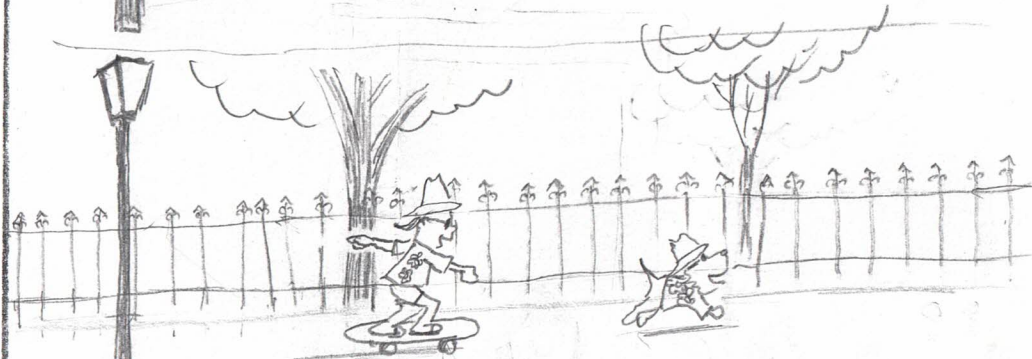
Tiffany did not waste time in making
Alistair feel welcome.
They did everything
together, like
making his food...



... bee-bopping to jazz...



... and taking long walks.



No matter the weather,
they dressed appropriately.

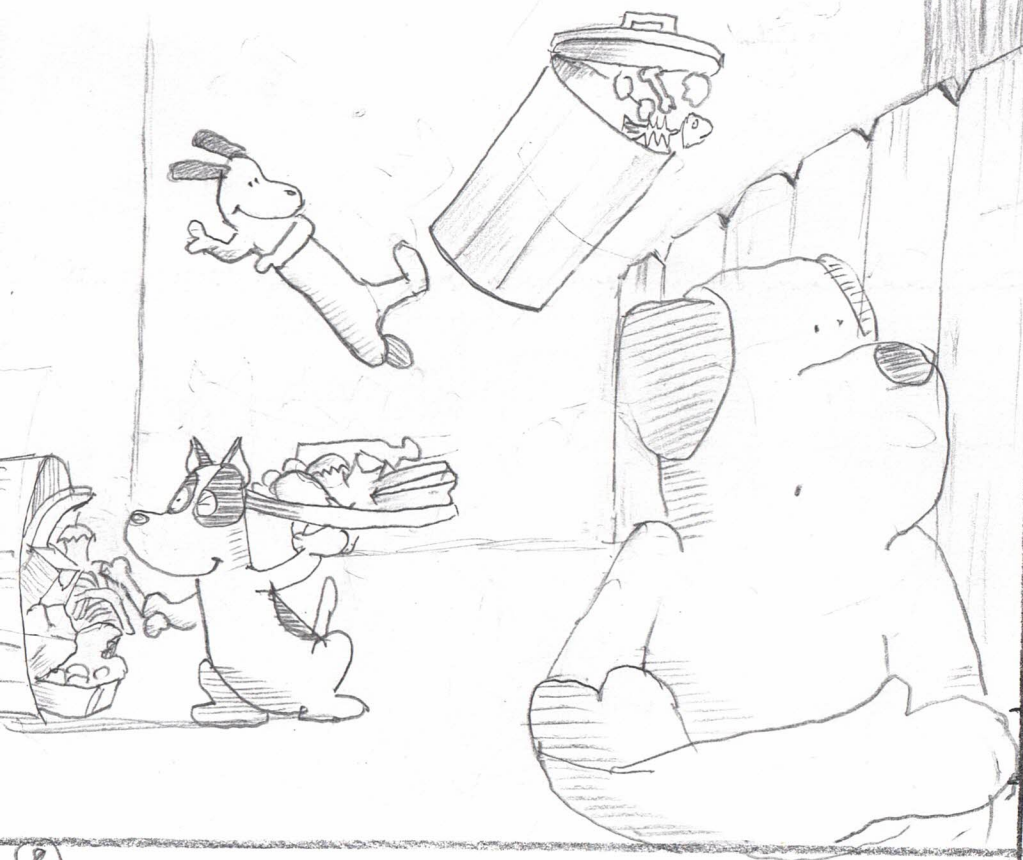


Winnie, Bernie and Levi also
had their daily routine.

≥ "HIYAA!" ≤ cried Winnie.

"The beauty of your Kiai
is matched by McMurty's
throwaways," said Levi.

"Sometimes I think
it would be nice to
be an indoor dog," said
Bernie.

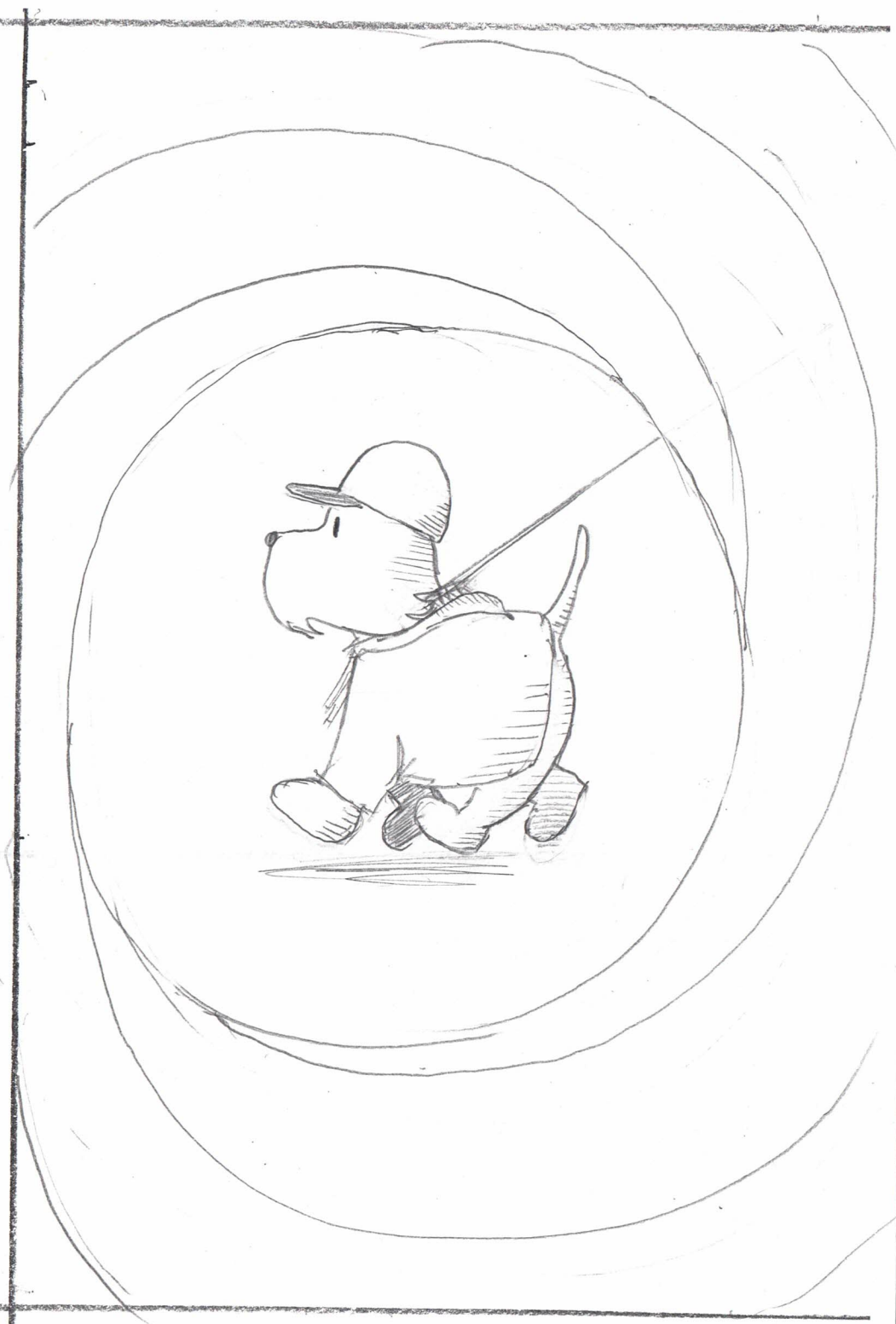


"Why would you want that?" asked
Winnie.

"We're dogs. We live outdoors and
eat outdoors. Our home is furnished
by nature and it has NO WALLS."

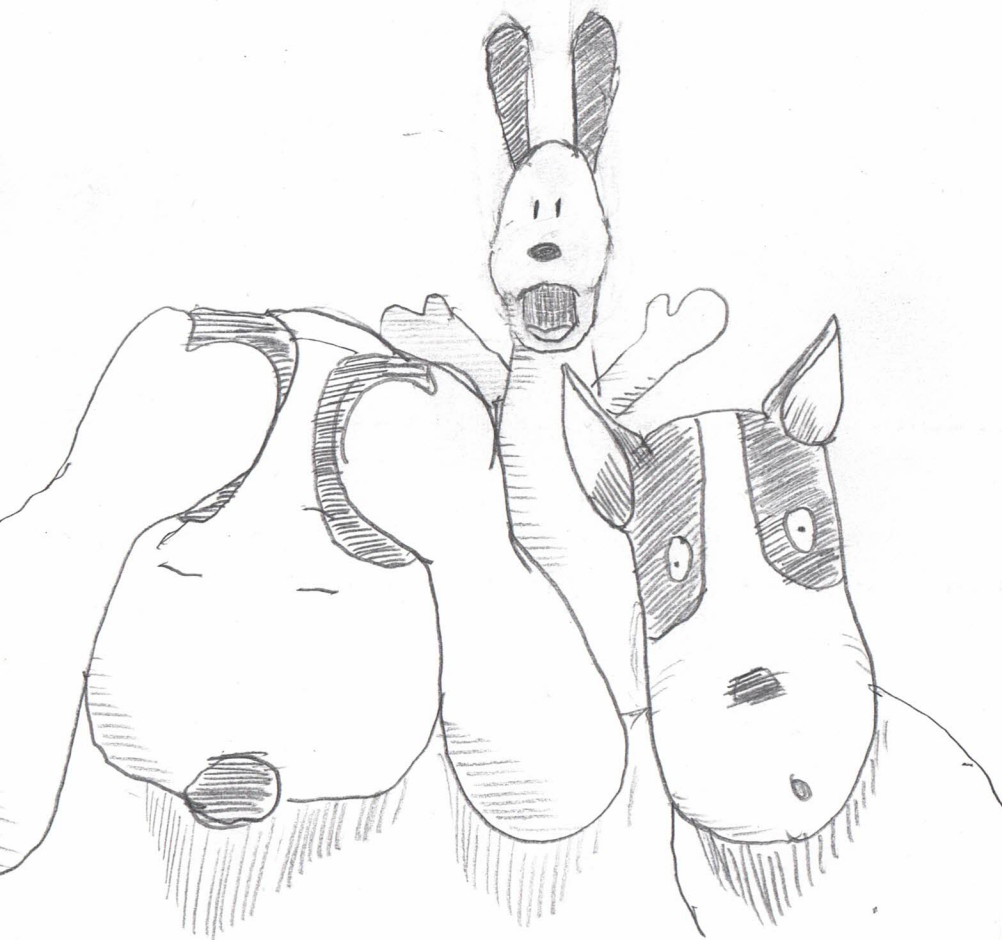
"And leave us not forget the best part
of being a dog, Bernard. We grow
our own clothes," said

"Speaking of 'clothes',
turn your eyes toward
the end of the
driveway," said Levi.



= WHAT? =

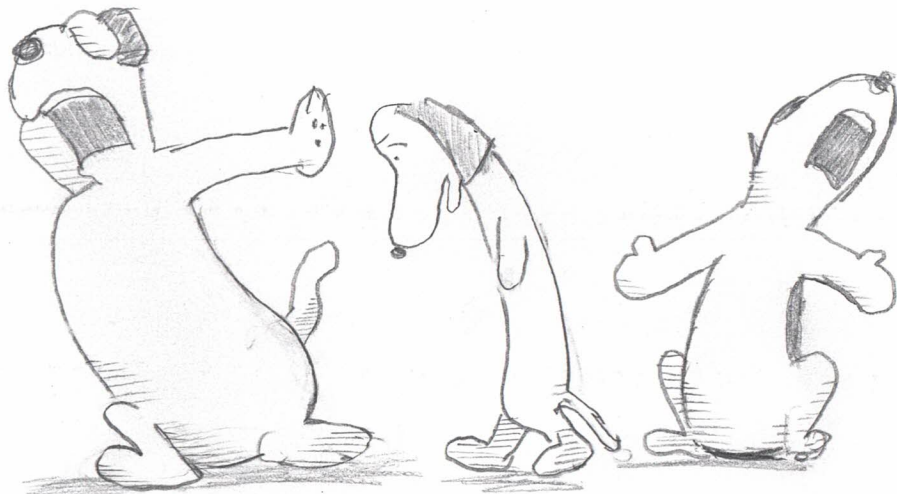
"It's gotta be an optical delusion," said Winnie.



"He's wearing a hoodie!" cried Bernie.
And a ball cap! He's behaving like...
like... a human!"

"And soon he'll be walking on
two legs with his head down,"
said Winnie.

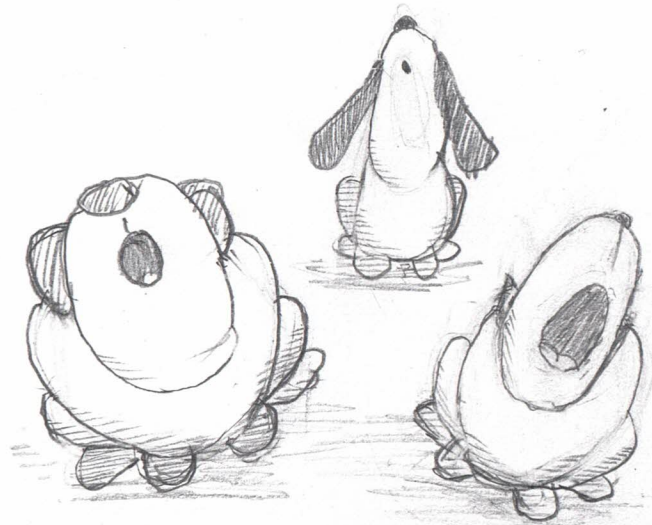
= Noooooo! =
cried Levi.



"Fellas! We have to save Al!"
said Winnie.



Bernie and Levi nodded.
They then sealed their bargain
by raising their heads to the
heavens and howled.



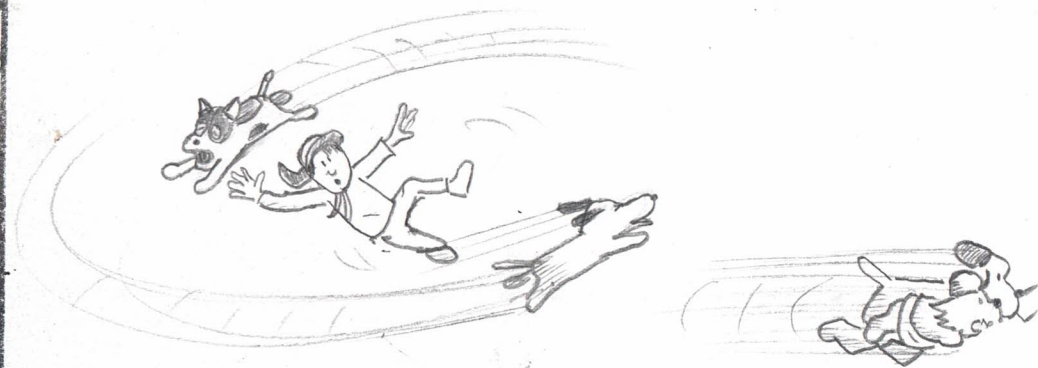
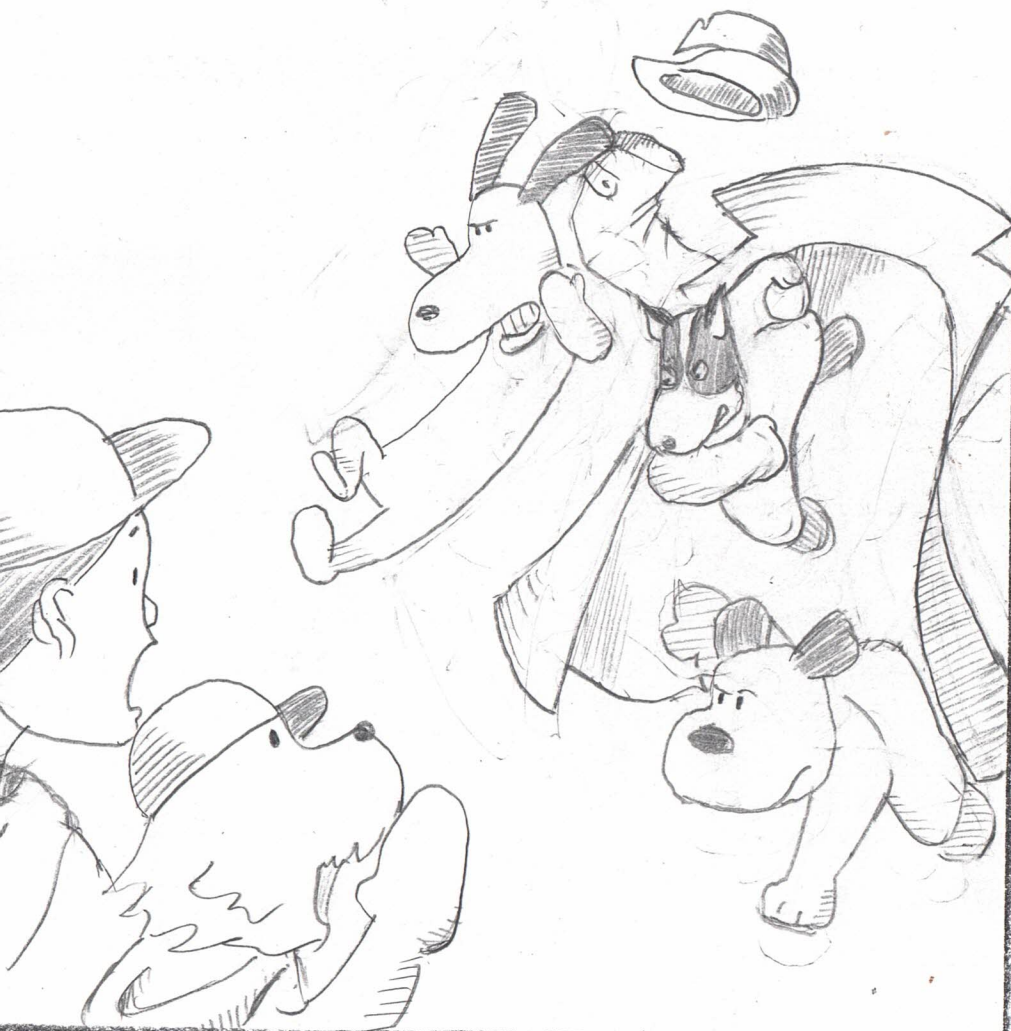
AAAOWW!

The next day, Tiffany took Alistair for a walk through the park.



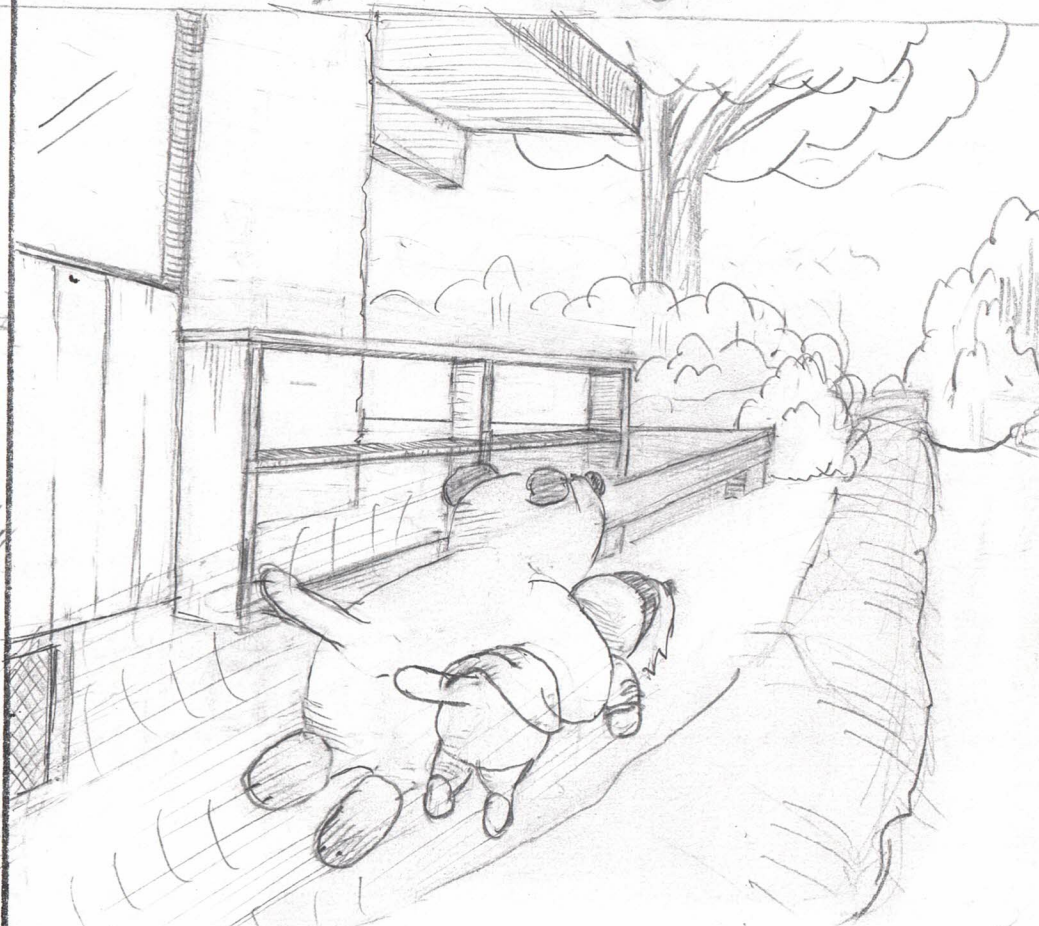
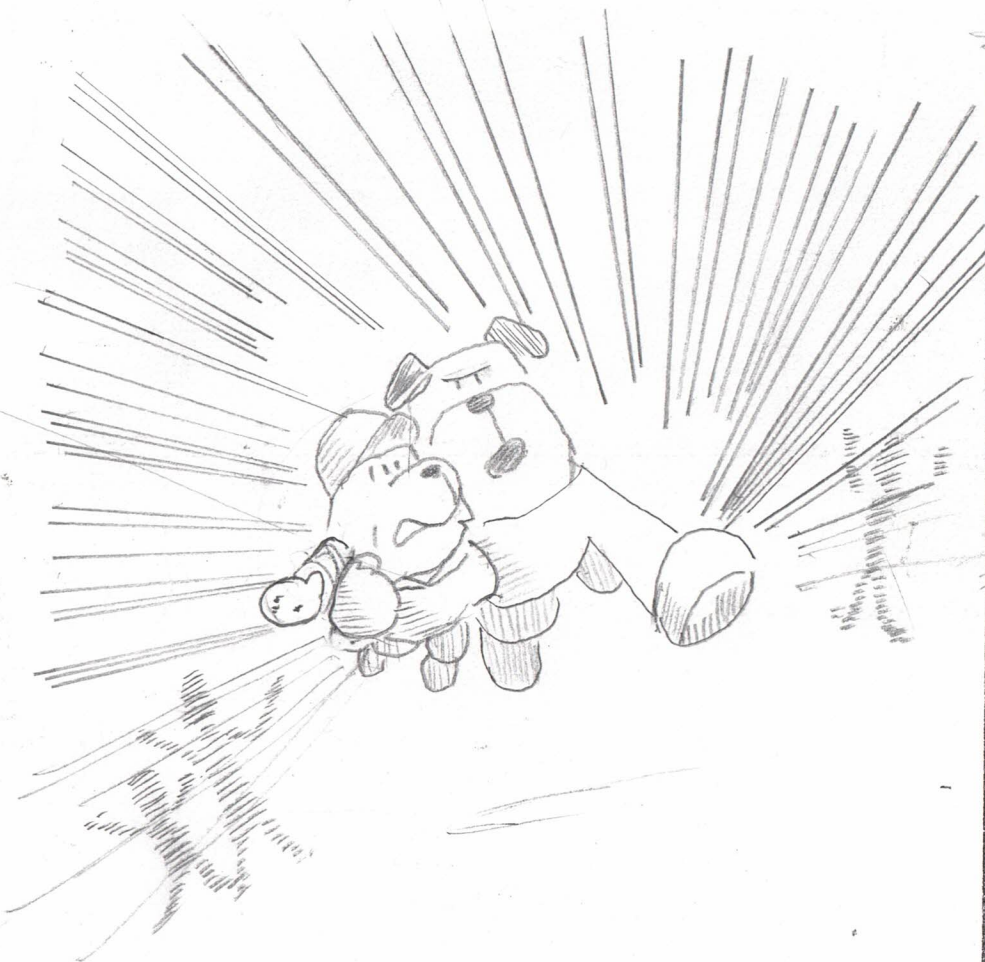
Ahead of them stood a tall man.
As they approached they heard a
sharp bark.

ROUTINE SIX!
cried, Winnie.





"Get a grip, Al!" said Bernie.
"We'll be there soon!"
Alistair cried, "It's 'Alistair' and
where is 'there'?"



"There's the gulley behind
McMurty's where you'll
be safe," said Bernie.



"'Safe' from what?"
asked Alistair.



"Safe to be a dog," said Winnie
"Safe to be You!"

"And to sample McMurty's throwaways,"
said Levi. "Mmmm, boy!"

"Are you blind? I am a dog"

said Alistair.

"Who is trying to be a human," said Winnie.

"And who'll soon be walking like this," said Bernie.



"These clothes don't make me a human," said Alistair. "If I pass a tree do I not lift a leg?"

Before Winnie could respond they heard

"ALISTAIR!"



"ALISTAIR! The GPS led us
right to you,"
said Tiffany.



"Looks like he just wanted to hang out
with his dog buddies," said
Officer Helter.

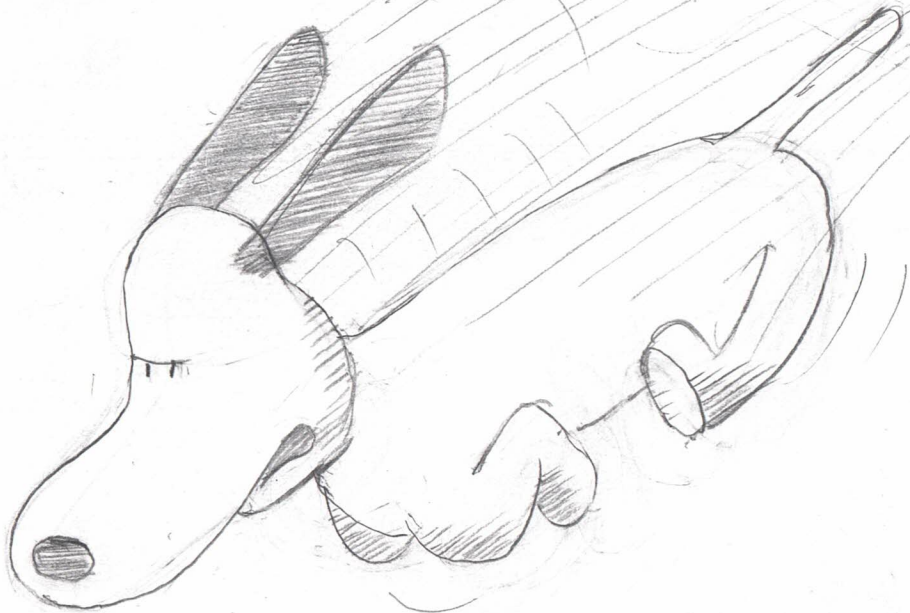
"Hmm. I bet I can find you guys
a nice home, too."



Winnie let out a loud

"Grownl-woof!"

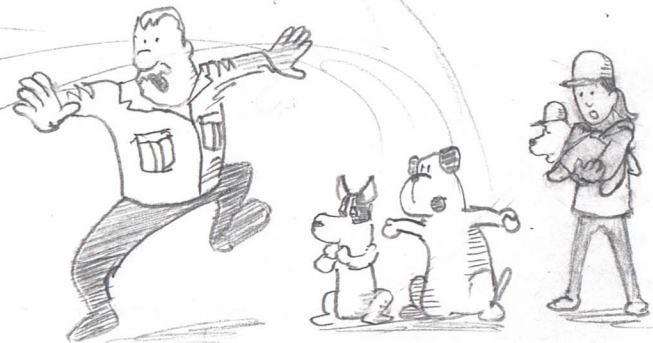
At least that's what Tiffany
and Officer Helter heard.



Alistair, Bernie and Levi heard

"NO WALLS! EVER!!"

And with that, Winnie ran as
fast as his little stumpy legs
could carry him.



Soon, Winnie was gone.

In the days to follow, in addition to making dog food, bee-booping to j⁴33, and taking walks, Tiffany took Alistair to the park to hang out with new friends... and old.



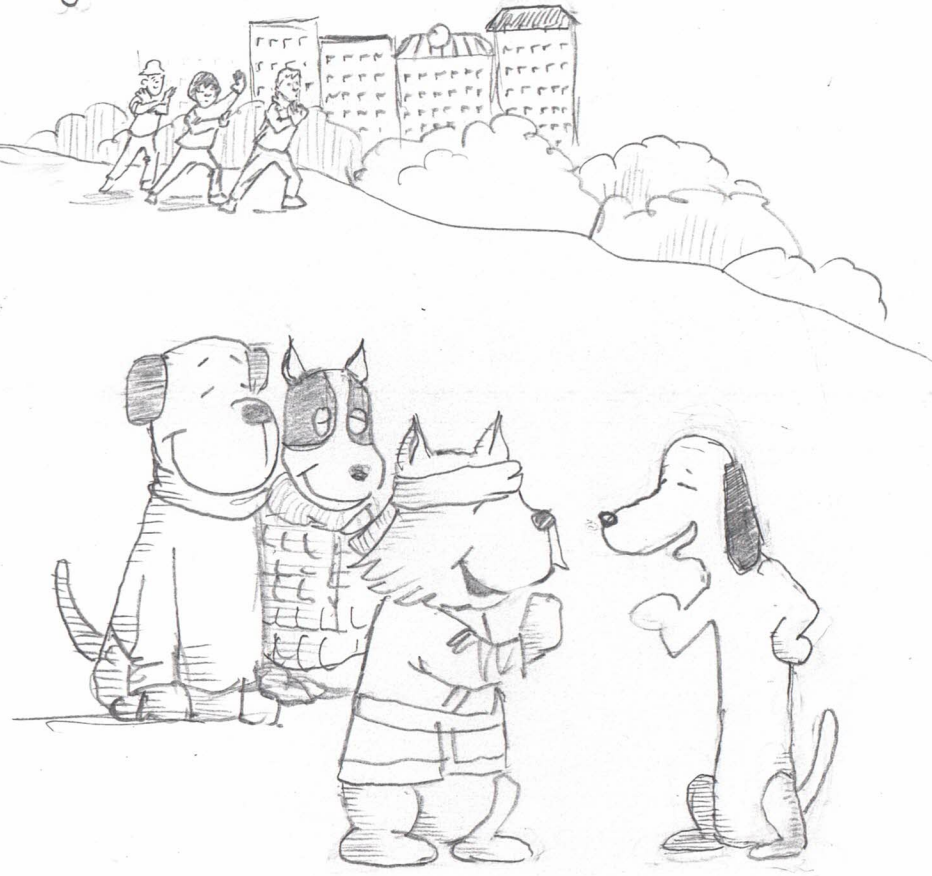
"You guys are looking sharp, Spiffy Dōjī," said Winnie.

"And we're still dogs," said Bernie.

"The key to wearing jackets is to rip off the collar tags," said Levi.

"Why don't you let Officer Helter find you a home?" asked Alistair.

"Hmm. Maybe," said Winnie. "Maybe later. I just need to take it..."



"...one step at a time."

