

Care-full stories: Story 3: Just me now

November 2022



Instructions

This story is meant to highlight issues for discussion around:

- empowerment
- individual and collective responsibility
- effective communication.

Set up:

One person (Animal Tech) reads the monologue. Three other people (see below) are allocated the required number of envelopes/responses each.

Person reading the monologue responds according to the response of other “character” where indicated.

There is the option to play things out twice (removing cards that have already been used after the first round).

In person and online:

Each character is only given their own sections, with relevant notes to guide them through, so that they don’t know what is coming.

In person:

You can have a prop (e.g. a stuffed ferret). Each attempted or successful communication involves a passing back and forth of the prop to symbolise the passing back and forth of responsibility.

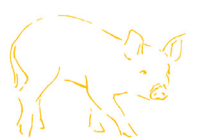
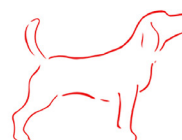
Characters:

(Readers do not have to hold these roles in real life.)

- **Animal Tech** – reads monologue
- **Dom** (also an Animal Tech) – 2 envelopes
- **Licence Holder** (Licence Holder) – 3 envelopes
- **Named Veterinary Surgeon** (NVS) – 3 envelopes



2



Setting:

Animal Tech is in the facility. Other characters are at different locations (unspecified). Conversations between characters take place “over the phone” (no need to mime this!).

In person:

Characters Dom, Licence Holder and NVS are asked to sit to the side. But Animal Tech stands and addresses everyone else as if they are the animals spoken to / about.

Online:

Address/look at people as required. Can ignore stage directions that require movement.

Reading instructions:

Normal text: Read out everything that is in normal text, including “Calling X”, and “ Do you a, b, c” etc. These are elements that are useful for everyone to know.

Italics: Stage directions. No need to read out loud, but useful for the reader.

Bold italics: Active instructions for the reader– no need to read out loud, but the reader needs to follow them.



3



Animal Tech Monologue

Animal Tech: *(addressing main group)*

Just me in the building now. I said goodbye to Dom a couple of hours ago. He's off to his grandmother's 90th. Lovely. At least there's no shortage of animals to keep me company! I actually wasn't meant to be working today. I had the day off for a few personal reasons. But I wanted to come in. You're our lovely new guests and I want to get to know you more, understand what you're like, how you behave. I'm very observant, you know. You've not been here long; I hope you're settling in, feeling comfortable. I'll just be here, coming in and out as I do.

I hope you like your names. I'm quite pleased with them *(Can point at specific people here)*. You're Chip, you're Seb and you're Omen. Don't mind me chattering away to you while I'm doing various bits and bobs. I'm going to tell you about my exciting family get together in six months! I'm planning it. We're going to give Dom and his grandma a run for their money! Oh, hang on *(pause, take a few steps closer to the group)*, I just want to change this water, actually *(pause)*. Right, so, anyway, everyone's coming over from – *(stop, choose one person to look at, or if Seb has already been specified above – look at that person)* – what are you doing Seb? *(Pause)*. Oh yes, this is sleepy Seb. I've got the hang of that now. You're a predictable little ferret aren't you? Expensive, useful, delightful little ferrets all of you. Great, you're all set for now. You'll be just fine until lights out and sleep time. It's still winter for you! See you tomorrow! *(Turn around. Wait a second, turn back)*.

I just wanted to check again. Sorry chaps. It's like we say – "Double-check. It doesn't take you a second to double-check." Sometimes I triple-check. Or even quadruple check! Even if I'm going to be late or miss something. Just to make sure you, or anyone else, is ok. While I do that I can finish my story! And no more interrupting from you, Chip, thank you very much. So, anyway, my family are – oh hang on, better speed up, look at the time. Lights out soon. And I want to make sure everything is double-checked. There's enough time.

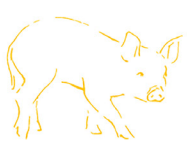
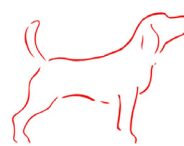
What's going on there, Omen? You're looking a bit unstable on your feet. You don't normally move like that... Omen? Not being very responsive, are you? I wonder if Dom has noticed anything... I'll just give him a quick call. *[calling Dom]*.

Wait for Dom to choose a response (Outcome 1 or Outcome 2, see next page). Go the appropriate section. They will speak first.

In person: *place prop in front of Dom*



4



Communication with Dom – possible outcomes

Outcome 1:

Dom doesn't answer; you are read an answering machine message.

Do you:

- a. Make your own decision?
- b. Call the Licence Holder?

State your answer to the group and then follow the appropriate column.

a) Make your own decision ↓	b) Call the Licence Holder ↓
<p>Specify what that decision is ↓ Go to "Closing" on page 13</p>	<p>Read this paragraph: Right, Omen, let's have a closer look at you. You're definitely not moving properly are you? This does not look good. Seb, Chip, don't worry, he'll be fine! I just don't feel comfortable making decisions on my own here without further input. I'll call the Licence Holder. ↓ Go to Section "Communication with Licence Holder" on page 7</p>



5



Outcome 2:

Dom answers. He speaks first. Read each line following each of Dom's responses.

[Dom speaks]

Animal Tech: Sorry to bother you, I know you're busy!

[Dom responds]

Animal Tech: Well, that's why I'm calling. Since their arrival have you noticed anything off at all with Omen?

[Dom responds]

Animal Tech: There's something not right. He is unstable when he moves, and is being very unresponsive

[Dom responds]

Animal Tech: You don't think I should get approval or someone to check my decision?

[Dom responds]

Animal Tech: Ok, thanks! [Conversation ends]

Do you:

- a. Make your own decision?
- b. Call the Licence Holder?

State your answer to the group and then follow the appropriate column.

a) Make your own decision ↓	b) Call the Licence Holder? ↓
<p>Specify what that decision is ↓ Go to "Closing" on page 13</p>	<p>Go to "Closing" section (p.10) ↓ Read this paragraph: Right, Omen, let's have a closer look at you. You're definitely not moving properly are you? This does not look good. Seb, Chip, don't worry, he'll be fine! I just don't feel comfortable making decisions on my own here without further input. I'll call the Licence Holder. ↓ Go to Section "Communication with Licence Holder" on page 7"</p>



6



Communication with Licence Holder: Possible outcomes:

Say "Calling Licence Holder". Wait for Licence Holder to choose a response. Go the appropriate section. They will speak first.

In person: place prop in front of Licence Holder

Outcome 1:

Licence Holder does not answer. You hear an answering machine message.

Do you:

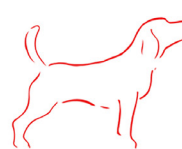
- a. Leave a message?
- b. Make your own decision?
- c. Call the NVS

State your answer to the group and then follow the appropriate column.

a) Leave a message ↓		b) Make your own decision ↓	c) Call the NVS ↓
Specify your message and tell us how long you are going to wait. They might call you back! (Wait just 3 seconds, then follow below)		Specify your decision ↓ Go to "Closing" on page 13	Read this paragraph: I am not doing this on my own. I appreciate what Dom says but there's a difference between being allowed to make your own call and feeling like you have to make your own call! I'm calling the NVS.
↓ The phone rings! ↓ Go to Licence Holder "Outcome 2 or 3" on page 8 as specified by the caller.	↓ Time is up. No one called you back. ↓ Go back to the top of this page and choose (b) or (c)		↓ Go to "Communication with NVS" on page 10



7



Outcome 2:

Licence Holder answers. They will specify "Outcome 2" and then speak first. Read each line following each of their responses.

[Licence Holder speaks]

Animal Tech: Hey, this is [your name].

Animal Tech: Can you hear me?

[Licence Holder responds]

Animal Tech: This is (your name), I have an issue to talk to you about.

[Licence Holder responds]

Animal Tech: I'm just calling about the new ferrets for your auditory tests.

[Licence Holder responds]

Animal Tech: The ferrets. One of the ferrets is displaying some concerning behaviour.

[Licence Holder responds then hangs up]

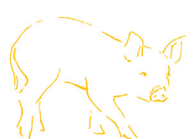
Animal Tech: [now off the call]: Omen? Omen? What are you doing hiding in the corner? Oh gosh, he's not responding or moving at all. Right, ok...

Do you:

- Wait for the return call?
- Make your own decision?
- Call the NVS

State your answer to the group and then follow the appropriate column.

a) Wait for the return call ↓		b) Make your own decision ↓	c) Call the NVS ↓
Specify how long you are going to wait. They might call you back! (Wait just 3 seconds and then follow below)		Specify your decision ↓ Go to "Closing" on page 13	Read this paragraph: I am not doing this on my own. I appreciate what Dom says but there's a difference between being allowed to make your own call and feeling like you have to make your own call! I'm calling the NVS.
↓ The phone rings! ↓ Go to "Licence Holder Outcome 3" on page 9	↓ Time is up. No one called you back. ↓ Go back to the top of this page and choose (b) or (c)		↓ Go to "Communication with NVS" on page 10



Outcome 3:

LH answers. They will specify "Outcome 3" and then speak first. Then read each line following each of their responses.

[Licence Holder speaks]

Animal Tech: Hey, this is [your name]. Is this an ok time?

[Licence Holder responds]

Animal Tech: That's why I'm calling. One of them is displaying some concerning signs and unusual behaviour. He seemed really unstable on his feet and now he's now hiding in the corner, not responding at all. Do you need me to make my own call or could you come in?

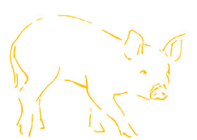
[Licence Holder responds]

Animal Tech: Thank you. See you soon. [Conversation ends]

Scenario ends. You are waiting for the Licence Holder



Go to "Closing" on page 13



Communication with the NVS: Possible outcomes

Say "Calling NVS". Wait for NVS to choose a response. Go the appropriate section. They will speak first.

In person: place prop in front of NVS

Outcome 1:

NVS does not answer. They will speak to tell you that there is no answering machine, but they'll see a missed call.

Do you:

- a. Wait for a return call?
- b. Make your own decision?
- c. Call the Licence Holder again?

State your answer to the group and then follow the appropriate column.

a) Wait for a return call ↓		b) Make your own decision ↓	c) Call the Licence Holder ↓
Specify your message and tell us how long you are going to wait. They might call you back! (Wait just 3 seconds and then follow below)		Specify your decision ↓ Go to "Closing" on page 13	Return to "Communication with Licence Holder" on page 7 and repeat the process.
↓ The phone rings! ↓ Go to "NVS Outcome 2 or 3" on page 11 as specified by the caller	↓ Time is up. No one called you back. ↓ Go back to the top of this page and choose (b) or (c)		



Outcome 2:

NVS Answers. They will specify "Outcome 2" and then speak first. Then read each line following each of their responses.

[NVS speaks]

Animal Tech: I was told to contact you by the Licence Holder responsible for the current ferret population. I need advice on something urgently. There is what now seems to be a developing and severe issue with one of them. Could you come in?

[NVS responds]

Animal Tech: Thank you! (Conversation ends)

Are you satisfied for now?

- a. Yes
- b. No

State your answer to the group and then follow the appropriate column.

a) Yes ↓	b) No ↓
Go to "Closing" on page 13	Specify what else you would want do or who else you would want to speak to. ↓ Inform everyone that the scenario remains unresolved. END.



Outcome 3:

NVS Answers. They will specify "Outcome 3" and then speak first. Then read each line following each of their responses.

[NVS speaks]

Animal Tech: I was told to contact you by the Licence Holder responsible for the current ferret population. I need advice on something urgently. There is what now seems to be a developing and severe issue with one of them, seemingly connected to symptoms in his hind leg. Could you come in?

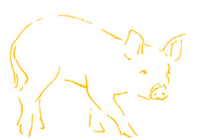
[NVS responds]

Animal Tech: I just don't really feel I want to take this decision.

[NVS responds]

Animal Tech: Thanks. [Conversation ends]

Go to "Closing" on page 13.



Closing

Once you have reached a "Scenario completed" or have chosen to take your own decision at any point you will end up here.

Please read the closing paragraph:

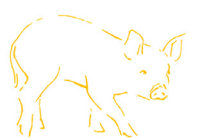
Animal Tech: What a night! You're lucky, as ferrets you don't have to worry about it so much. My responsibility, their responsibility, being listened to, not being listened to, talking to each other. What do you say chaps? Oh, it's gone dark. Guess that was lights out. Night night.

End



Prompts for discussion:

- What reactions might the Animal Tech have to each of these scenarios, as well as the scenario as a whole?
- What are the choices, options?
- Who should be providing support?
- Do you have any similar experiences relating to responsibility and communication? Would you like to share any of them?
- What individual and collective responsibility should be taken?
- What, if any, other questions are raised for you in this scenario?



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