

RABIES PREVENTION

RADIO DRAMA

SCENE 1

CHARACTERS - NARRATOR, SCOOPY, DALITSO, MOTHER

Narrator	Dalitso is a 5 th year primary student. One day, his mother decided to buy a dog named Scooby for their home. Dalitso is excited because this is their family's first dog.
Scooby	<i>Bark bark!</i>
Narrator	Mother explains to Dalitso the importance of taking care of a dog.
Mother	"To keep our new pet safe and happy, you must be responsible Dalitso."
Dalitso	"What do I need to do, Mother?"
Mother	"Everyday, you must make sure Scooby has food and plenty of water. Scooby needs to be protected from the sun and from the rain. We can make her home near a tree so she can stay nice and cool."
Dalitso	"Yes Mother, I'll put some food and water outside for her right now!"

SCENE 2

CHARACTERS - NARRATOR, SCOOPY, DALITSO

Narrator	<p>Several months have passed by. Scooby is living a happy and healthy life. Everyday before leaving for school and after finishing class, Dalitso checks to make sure Scooby has enough water and gives her some food.</p> <p>Now, Scooby is old enough to make children of her own. She has 5 puppies that she must protect and feed.</p>
Dalitso	"Scooby! Where are you? Oh, there you are?"



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Narrator	Scooby is protective of her puppies – Dalitso runs towards her, shouting and looking directly in her eyes. Scooby is worried he might hurt her pups so she growls at him and shows her teeth to warn him.....
Scooby	<i>Growl loudly</i>
NarratorDalitso stops and stands still.....
Scooby	<i>Growl quieter</i>
Narratorand looks away.....
Scooby	<i>Stops growling</i>
Narrator	Scooby then recognizes Dalitso and knows that he will not hurt her puppies and starts wagging her tail.
Narrator	Scooby moves away from the puppies and goes over to Dalitso. She sniffs his hand which he holds out for her in a balled first. Scooby relaxes her ears and then wags her tail. Dalitso gently strokes her on her back. He then goes to refill her bowl with more water.

SCENE 3

CHARACTERS - DALITSO, SCOOBY, NARRATOR, CHILD 1, CHILD 2

Narrator	The next week, Dalitso is on his way home from school when he sees children throwing stones and screaming at Scooby.
Child 1 & 2	'Go away! Go away!'
Dalitso	'STOP! Why are you hurting my dog?'
Child 1	"We were running past and then this dog woke up and just started barking at us and chased us – she is scary and we want her to go away. That is why we started throwing stones at her."
Dalitso	"Dogs will chase you if you disturb them when they are eating, sleeping or feeding their puppies or if you run in front of them. They bark to tell us how scared or threatened they feel. You should not hit and hurt them. Put your hands behind your back or crossed over your chest, stand still, do not scream and look away. Scooby will go away and you will be safe."

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Narrator	The children try these simple tips and Scooby calms down and walks away.
Children 2	“Thank you Dalitso – you are a hero! We’ll be careful not to disturb dogs in the future.”

SCENE 4

CHARACTERS - DALITSO, SCOOPY, MISSION RABIES, MOTHER

Narrator	One day, a vehicle arrives at Dalitso’s home village. A man wearing a yellow shirt with the words Mission Rabies comes out of the car with medicine.
Mission Rabies	“Hello! I work with Mission Rabies. May I speak with your mother?”
Dalitso	“Sure. I’ll take you to her.” <i>[footsteps]</i> “Mother, this man is from Mission Rabies. He would like to speak with you.”
Mother	“Hello, sir. How are you?”
Mission Rabies	“I’m good, madam. Thank you. I’m here to remind you and your family about the importance of yearly rabies vaccines for your dog. I see that you have a dog and puppies here. Can I vaccinate them?”
Mother	“Is the vaccine safe for the dog and puppies?”
Mission Rabies	“Yes, this vaccine is absolutely safe for dogs and puppies of any age. We can even give the medicine to pregnant female dogs. To keep you and your family safe, please make sure to have all dogs and all puppies vaccinated every year.”

SCENE 5

CHARACTERS - DALITSO, MOTHER

Narrator	One day, Dalitso was happily playing with his homemade toy car when a strange dog came over to him. He was salivating heavily, looked very ill and was unable to walk properly. Without warning, he ran towards Dalitso and bit him on the leg. Crying, Dalitso went inside to his mother.
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Mother	"What is wrong Dalitso? Why are you bleeding?"
Dalitso	"Mother, I was bitten by a dog. It was behaving very strangely. I was not bothering him, mother. I was very scared, but I did not run or scream. I made sure to protect my head and my neck, so the dog was only able to bite my leg."
Mother	"It was behaving strangely? I worry the dog may have rabies."
Dalitso	"What is rabies, Mother?"
Mother	"Rabies is a deadly disease. It is found in the saliva of infected animals. It can enter people's body when a dog with rabies scratches, licks or bites you. Even a little scratch can be dangerous. Once the virus enters the body, it attacks the brain. The person or animal will have difficulty eating, drinking water and walking. Without treatment, it causes death. It has to be treated immediately—there is no cure once the virus has reached the brain."
Dalitso	"That sounds serious Mother, how can we treat it?"
Mother	"We will need to act fast and follow these three steps. Step 1: Scrub the scratch or bite wound with soap and running water for 15 minutes to remove the saliva. Step 2: Apply antiseptic, like Dettol or spirits, to clean the wound. Step 3: We must go to the hospital straight away, for five injections. These 5 injections will protect you."
Dalitso	"How can we protect Scooby?"
Mother	"Scooby is already safe. She received a rabies vaccine this year. The rabies vaccine protects dogs for up to a year. If a vaccinated dog is bitten, they remain healthy and safe. If the dogs are vaccinated it means that we are also protected from the disease. Veterinary doctors can help us stay protected from rabies by vaccinating the dogs."
Dalitso	"Let's make sure all of the dogs in our village are vaccinated so everyone can be safe from rabies!"