



Gus and the Bubbles



Wade and his dog Gus went to the village pet show. Wade wanted Gus to do a simple trick on the stage. If Gus could jump over a little stick, he might win the purple ribbon.



At home, Gus jumped over the stick every time, and Wade always gave him a piece of apple as a treat. "This will be simple," Wade said, and he gave Gus a gentle pat on the head. The pet show was in the middle of the village.



A judge sat at a long table next to the stage. First a cat walked across a narrow bench. Then a turtle pushed a marble with his nose. All the people clapped. Then it was time for Wade and Gus.



They walked to the middle of the stage, and Wade held out the stick. "Jump, Gus!" he said. But Gus looked at all the people and sat down. He did not jump. He just wiggled his tail. Wade tried again.



He held the stick down low and showed Gus a piece of apple. Gus only sat and wiggled some more. Someone in the crowd began to giggle, and Wade's face felt hot. It was a puzzle. Why would Gus not jump? Wade thought hard. Then he remembered something.



Gus could never sit still when he saw a bubble. At home he jumped and twirled at every one. And Wade still had a little bottle of bubble soap in his pocket! Wade pulled out the bottle and blew. A big bubble floated up over the stage, and Gus's ears went up.



Wade blew bubble after bubble. Gus jumped high and twirled around to pop them. He spun on his back legs. Soap dripped into a little puddle on the stage, and Gus slid right through it. The people began to giggle, and then they clapped and cheered. "What a wonderful trick!" said the judge.



"I never saw a dog dance like that." She tied the purple ribbon around Gus's neck. Wade hugged Gus and gave him the whole piece of apple. "It was not the trick I planned," Wade said, "but it was the best one." Gus wiggled his tail and popped one last bubble.