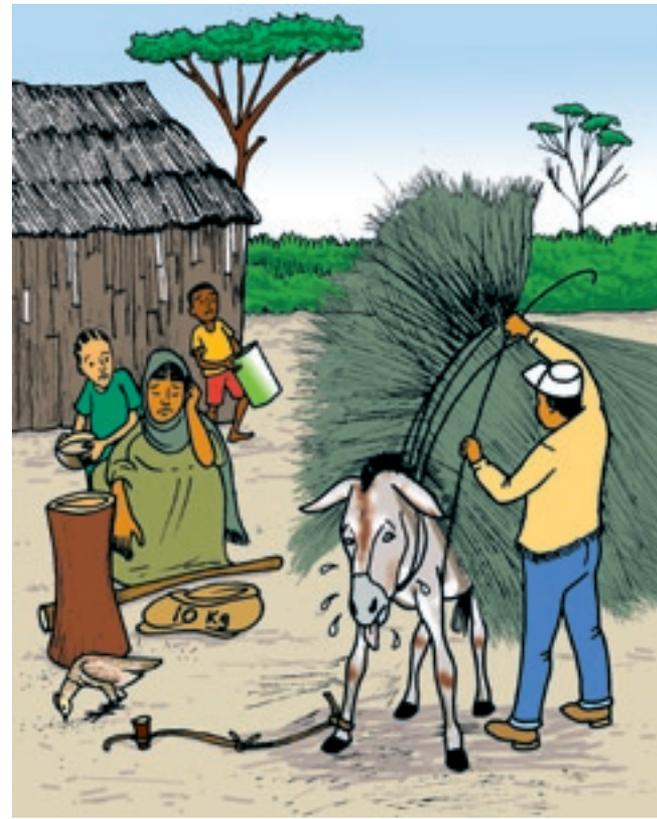
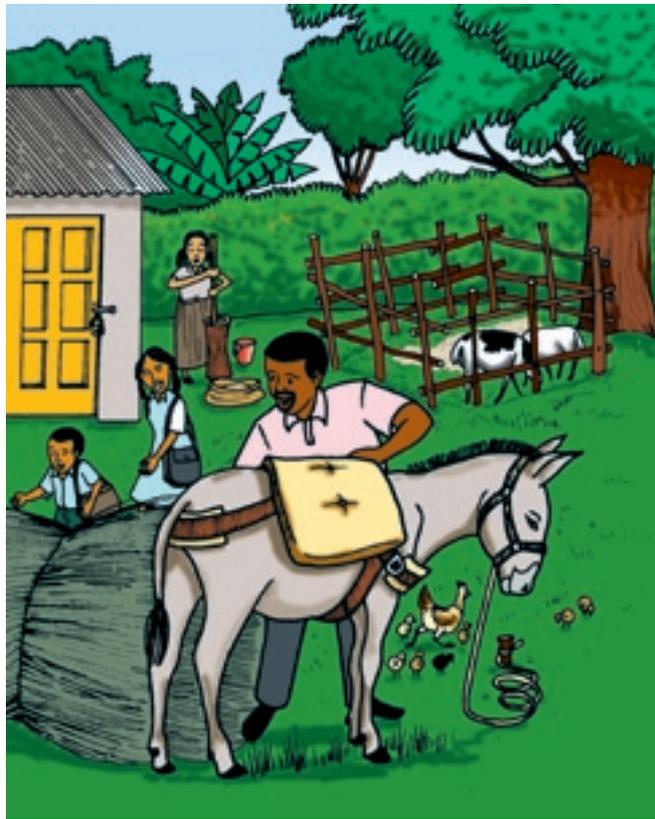


HAPPY DONKEY, HAPPY OWNER



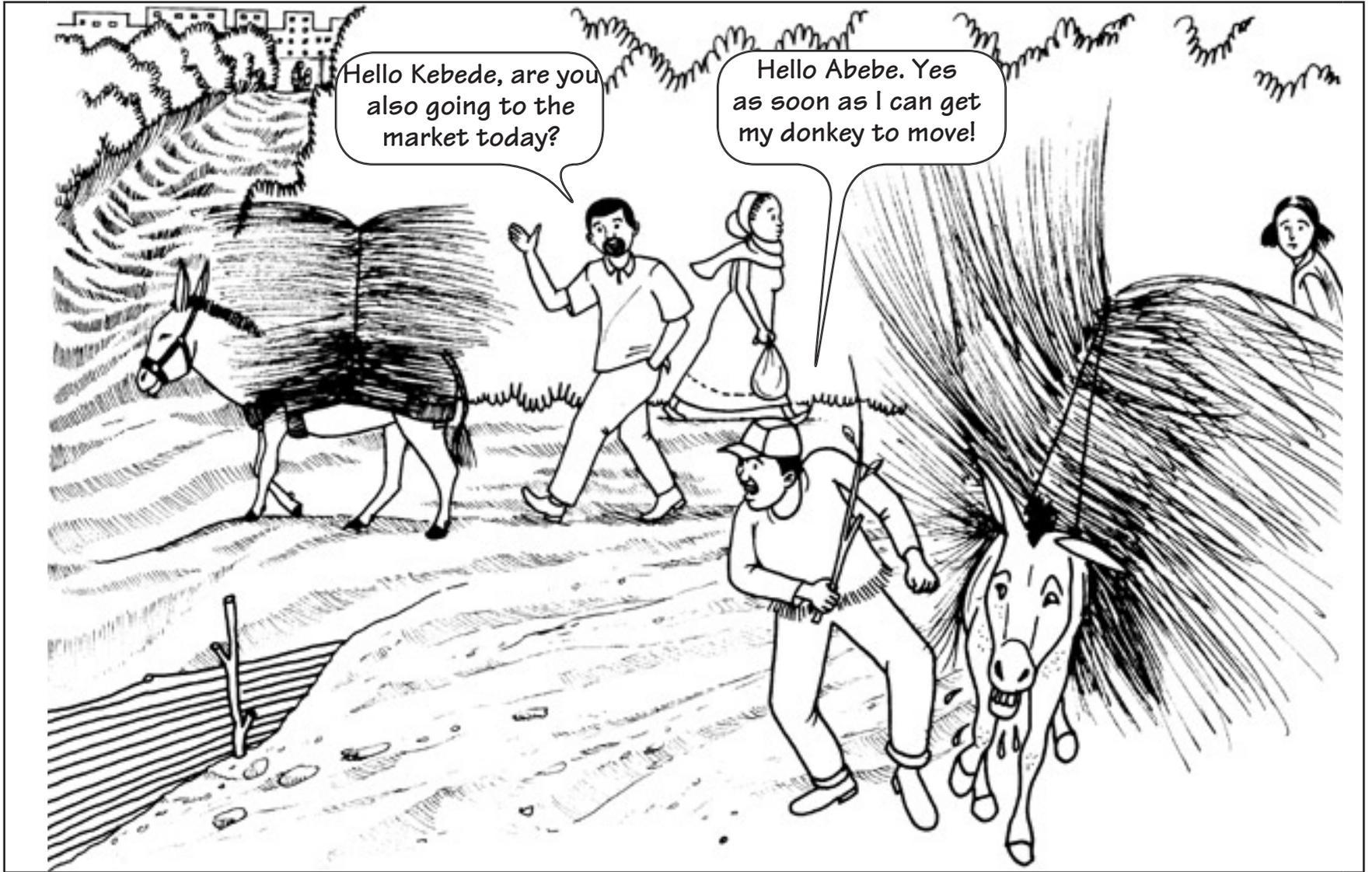
Abebe and Kebede

Abebe is getting ready to go to the market.



Kebede is also preparing to go to the market.





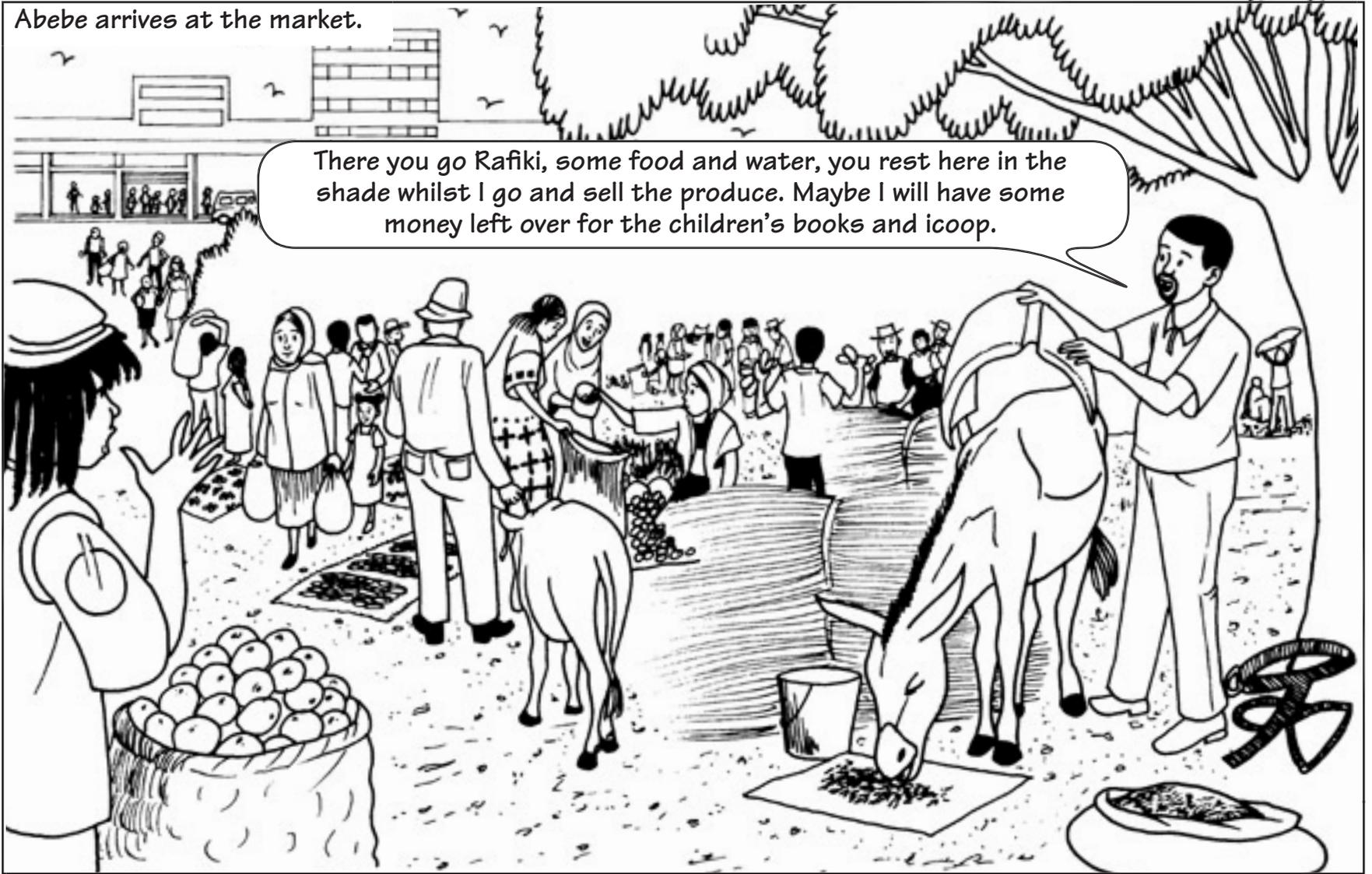
Hello Kebede, are you also going to the market today?

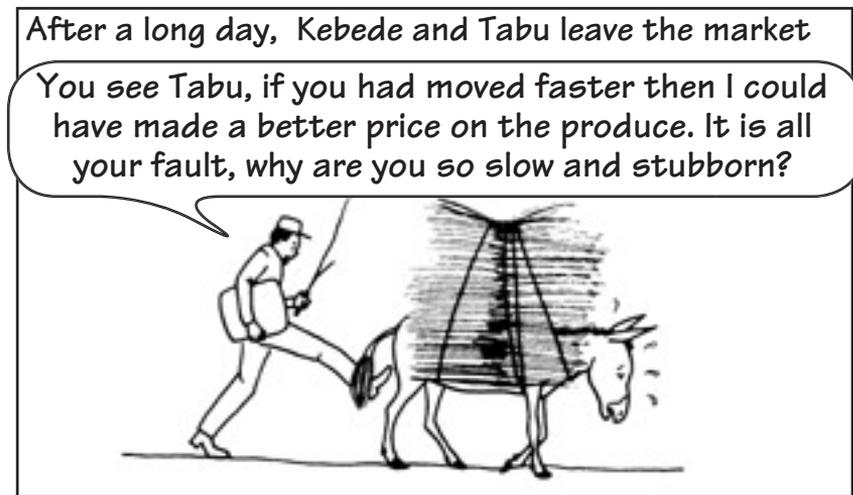
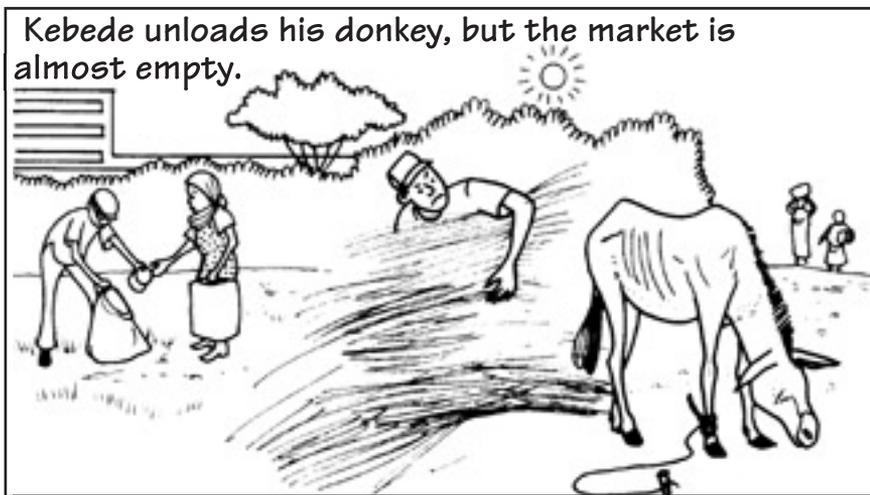
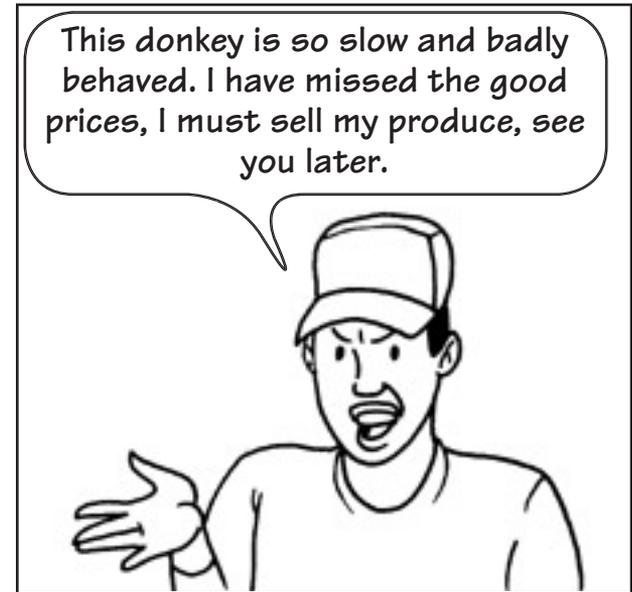
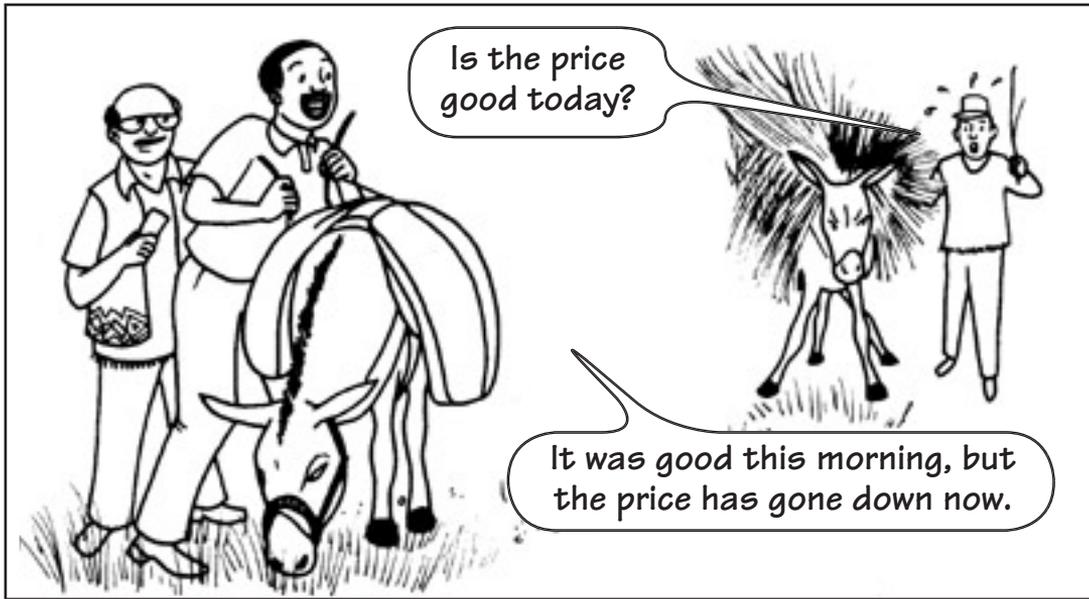
Hello Abebe. Yes as soon as I can get my donkey to move!



Abebe arrives at the market.

There you go Rafiki, some food and water, you rest here in the shade whilst I go and sell the produce. Maybe I will have some money left over for the children's books and icoop.





Hello Abebe, how was your day at the market?

Good I arrived early and sold the produce at a good rate. Tesfaye in the next village paid me to bring cement for him. I have some money for icoop and the children's books.



Rafiki has been released from his harness and is now drinking clean water in the shed he shares with other animals.

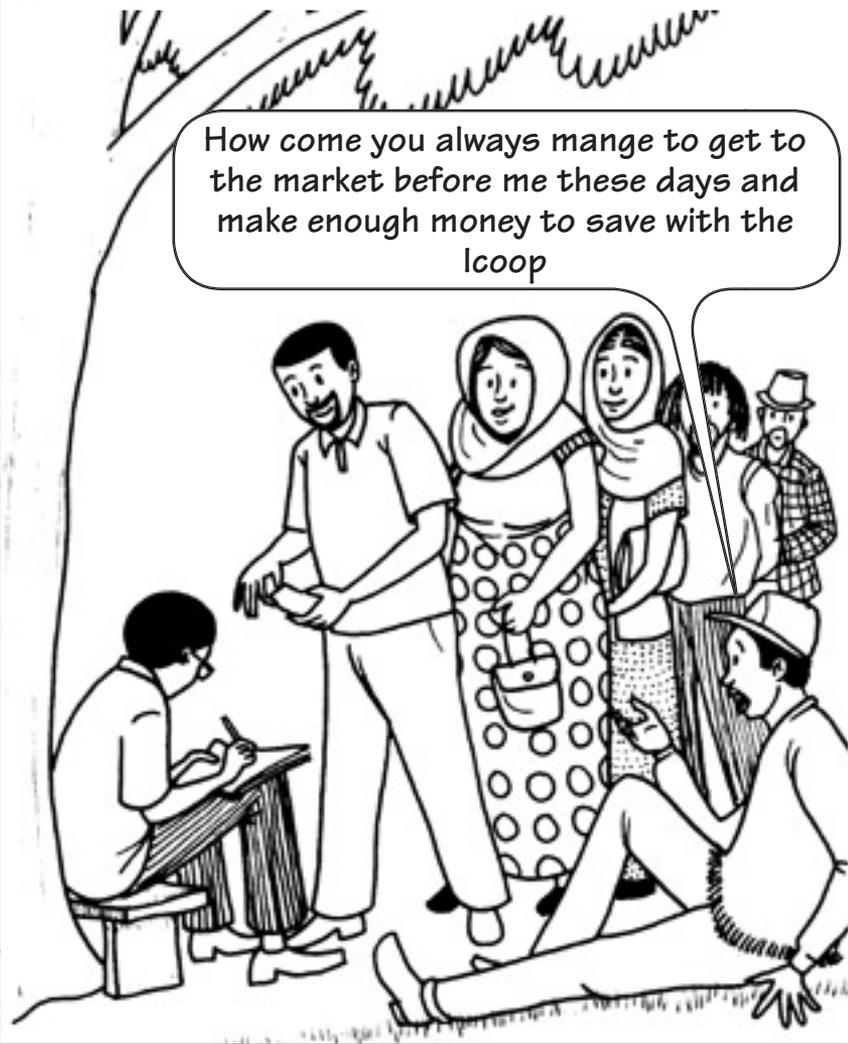


Abebe, his wife and the children are having their supper, when they see Kebede and Tabu going home looking sad.



The next day the local lcoop meet to collect peoples contributions.

How come you always manage to get to the market before me these days and make enough money to save with the lcoop



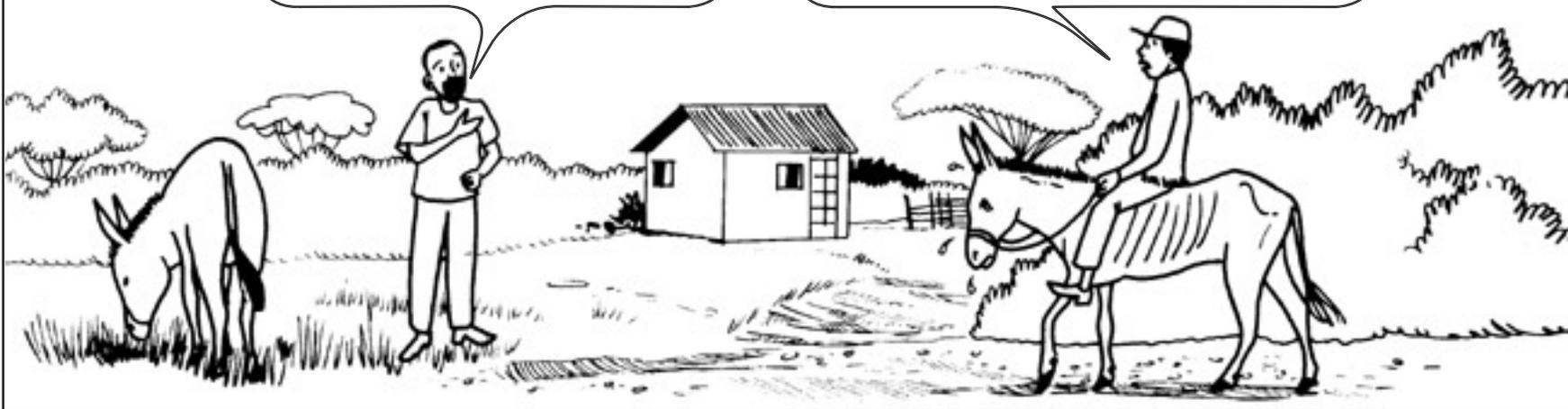
Since I learnt to take better care of Rafiki, he is much stronger and less stubborn. We work better together and I get more done than I used to. Why don't you come over tomorrow and I'll show you what I learnt.



The next day

Hello Kebede. When was the last time you wormed Tabu?

I have never wormed Tabu, its too expensive and he does not need it.



I worm Rafiki twice a year. The medicine kills the worms, which means Rafiki will get all the nutrients he eats and not be in competition with the worms, he has more muscle on him and so he suffers less from sores.

Where do you get the worm medicine from?



From the Animal Health Assistant, farm shop or sometimes the Donkey Health and Welfare Project Mobile Clinic who provide it free.



How can the Donkey Health and Welfare Project Mobile Clinic provide it free? Worm medicine is very expensive.

There is a charity in England called the Donkey Sanctuary that provides it free. When I see the Donkey Sanctuary vet here he also checks Rafiki's feet and if they need trimming he does it.

Why do you need to trim his feet, Tabu has never had his feet trimmed.



Donkeys need their feet trimmed, like we need our toe nails cut, but you must only take your donkey to a person who knows how to trim donkeys feet. The Donkey Sanctuary vet will do it for you when it is necessary.



How much water did Tabu have yesterday?

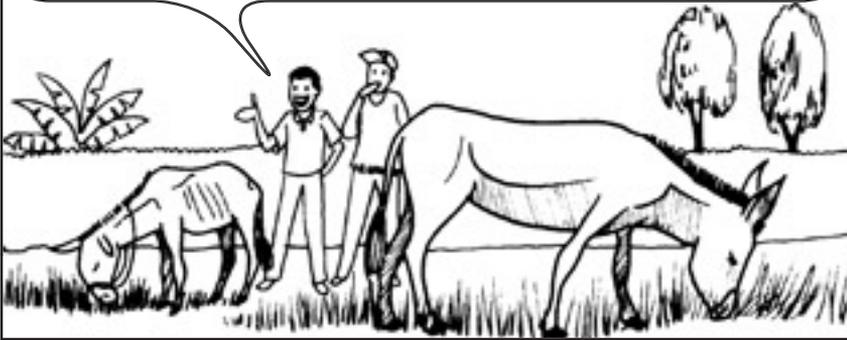
He drank in the morning with the goats.

Rafiki was given water three times yesterday, but mostly he drinks twice a day. When I was at the market, I unhitched Rafiki and he was allowed to rest, eat and drink in the shade, whilst I did the selling and buying.



Donkeys do not need to drink that often.

Its true that donkeys can mange on less water than other livestock, but if they are to take full advantage of what they eat they need to have water to help digestion and help them sweat.

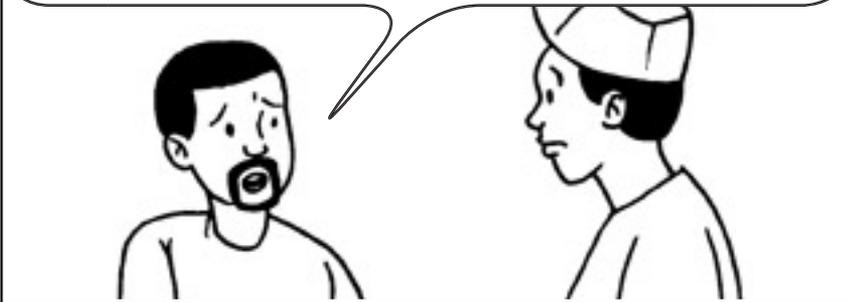


Rafiki likes this new harness.

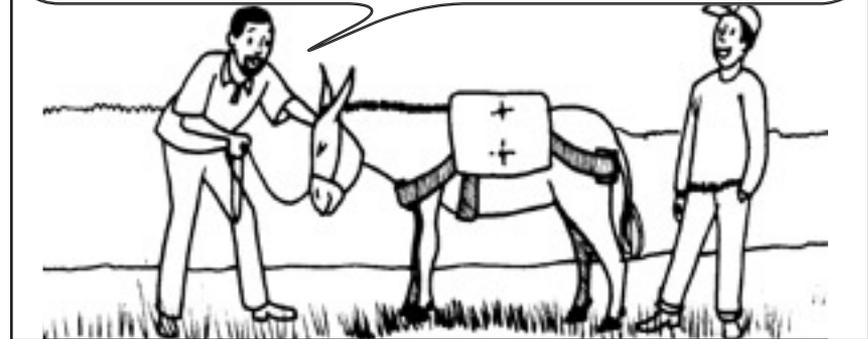
Why?

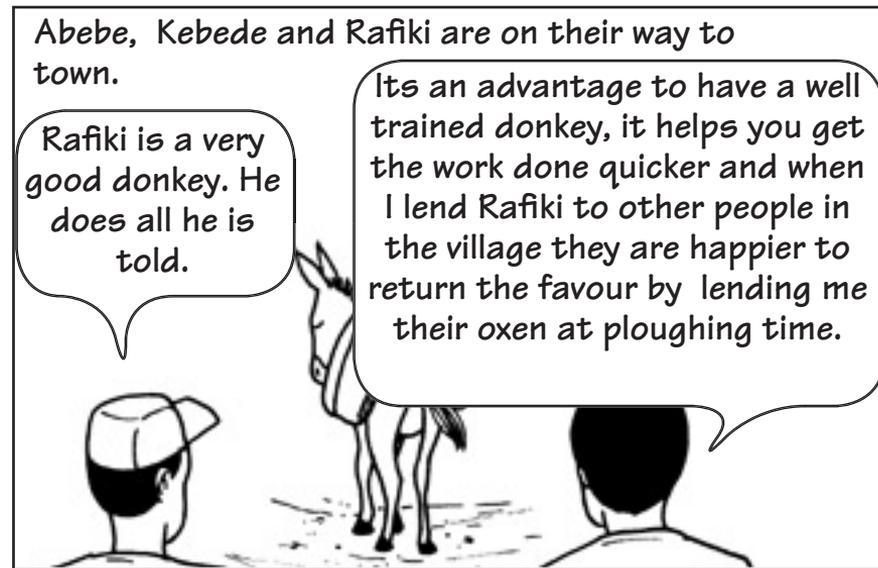
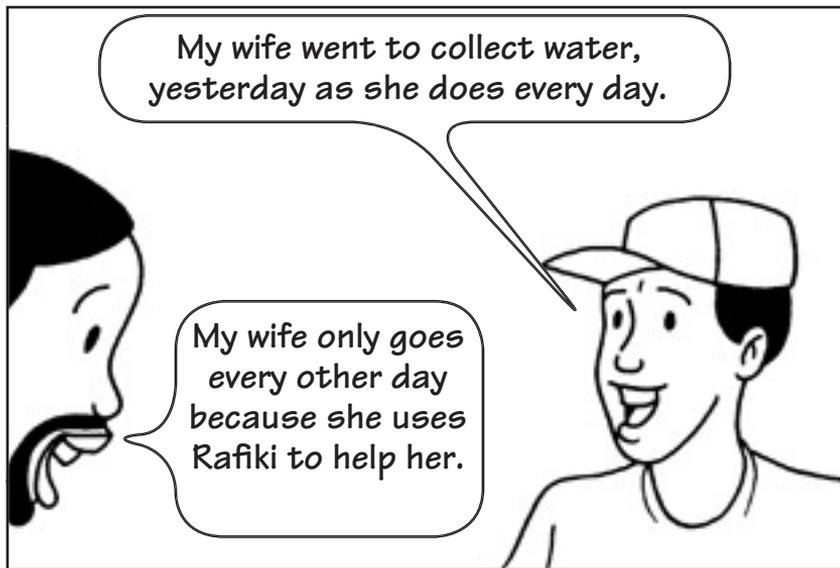


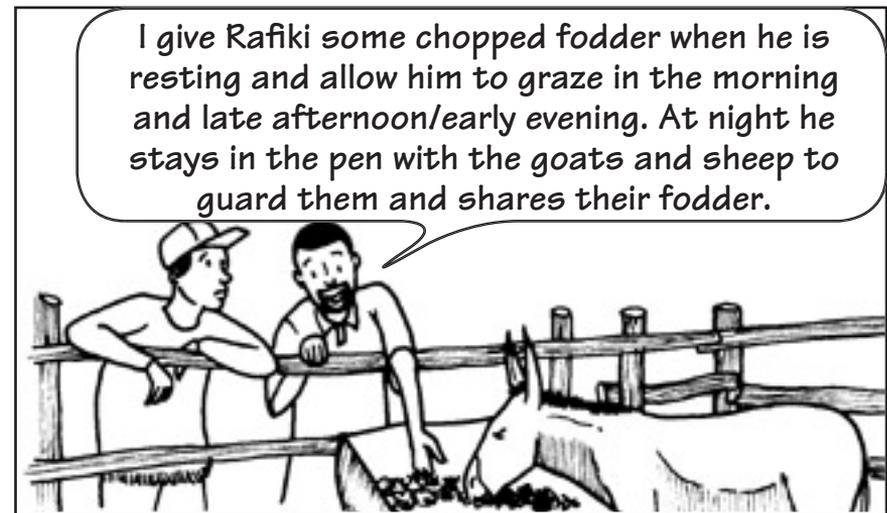
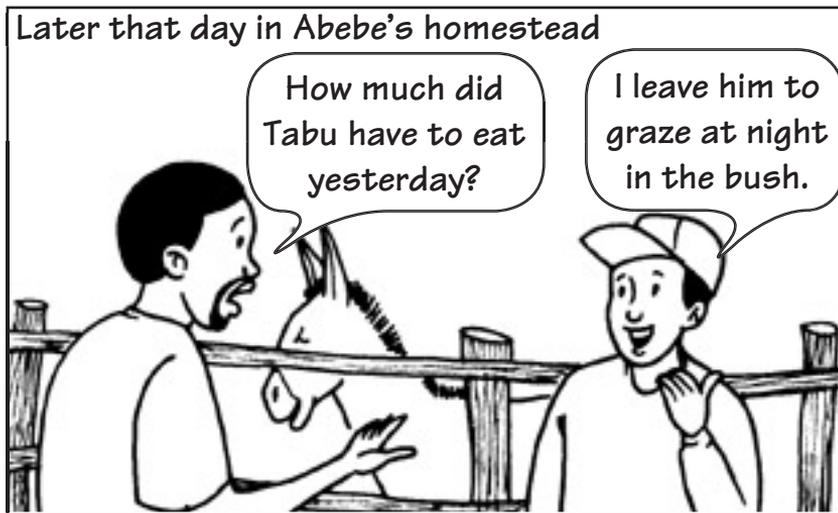
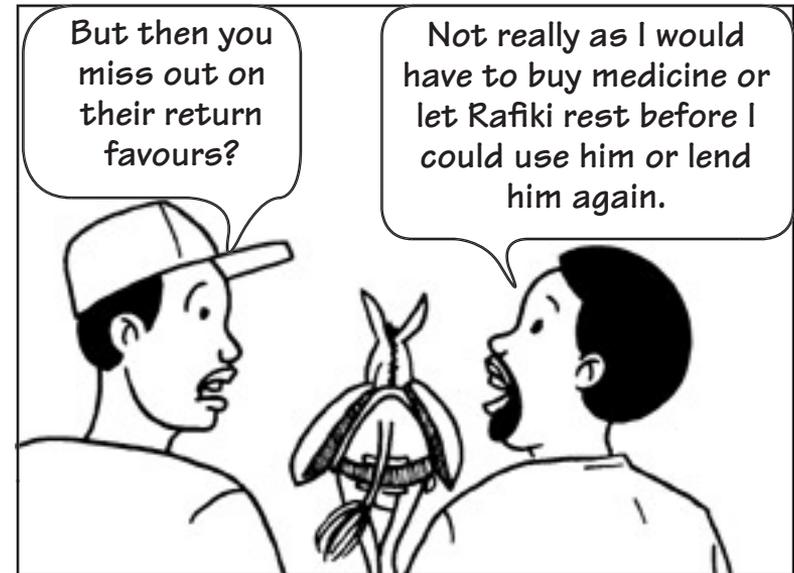
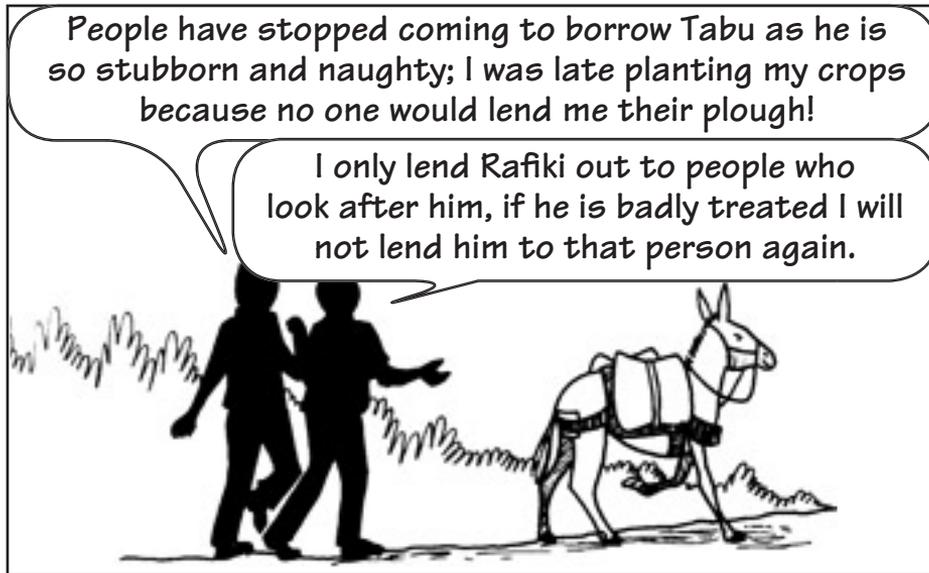
I didn't use to use a saddle and used to tie the load on with thin ropes. The Donkey Sanctuary vet explained to me that donkeys need a saddle to prevent the load causing sores on their backs; he showed me how to make one from cotton cloth and straw.



I tie the load on with wide straps. Where the straps rub against the Rafiki's skin, like under the tail or round the chest I put extra cloth padding. Now Rafiki has no sores, works harder and is much happier.







Your donkey guards your sheep and goats?

Yes, Rafiki will raise the alarm if hyenas enter the compound, and he will protect the sheep from intruders and since he has been with other animals he has been much quieter.

I will try this as Tabu is very noisy and my neighbours have been complaining.



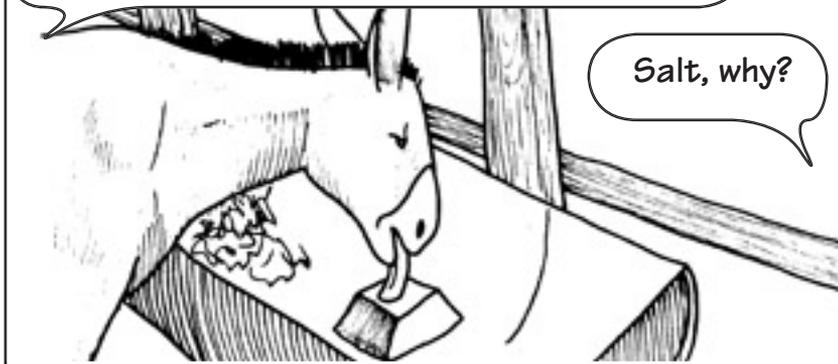
What are you feeding your donkey now; surely he has enough after grazing this morning and afternoon.

I am giving Rafiki some tef straw, but it depends what is available, any crop residues or vegetable waste so long as its not rotten is fine. When Rafiki has to work harder than usual he has less time to graze and so gets extra feed.

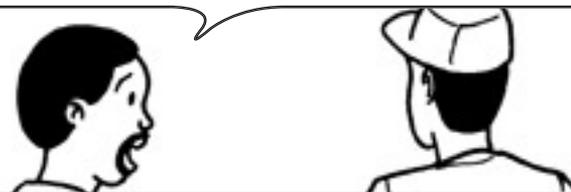


Rafiki also has access to a salt / mineral block and some times I feed him bran.

Salt, why?



You give cattle salt / mineral blocks so that they have enough of all the salts they need to stay healthy, it is the same for donkeys, but you must be careful to chose a block with no urea as urea is poisonous to donkeys.



Thank you, Abebe, I have learnt a lot today and will try and remember it all. I hope Tabu will be as good and fast as Rafiki soon. Tomorrow I will fix the pen so that he can go in there with the other animals.

Well, if you would like I will come to your house tomorrow to help you.

Thank you that would be very kind of you, see you tomorrow.

Bye for now.



The next day.

Good morning Kebede, where is Tabu this morning?

Hello Abebe, Tabu is grazing and we have already given him some tef straw.

That's great, now we must make the compound safe for him and the other animals.

We can get to work straight away; I will go and get Tabu to help carry the wood.





No, why don't you let Tabu have a rest today and let his wounds start to heal, Rafiki can help to carry the wood.

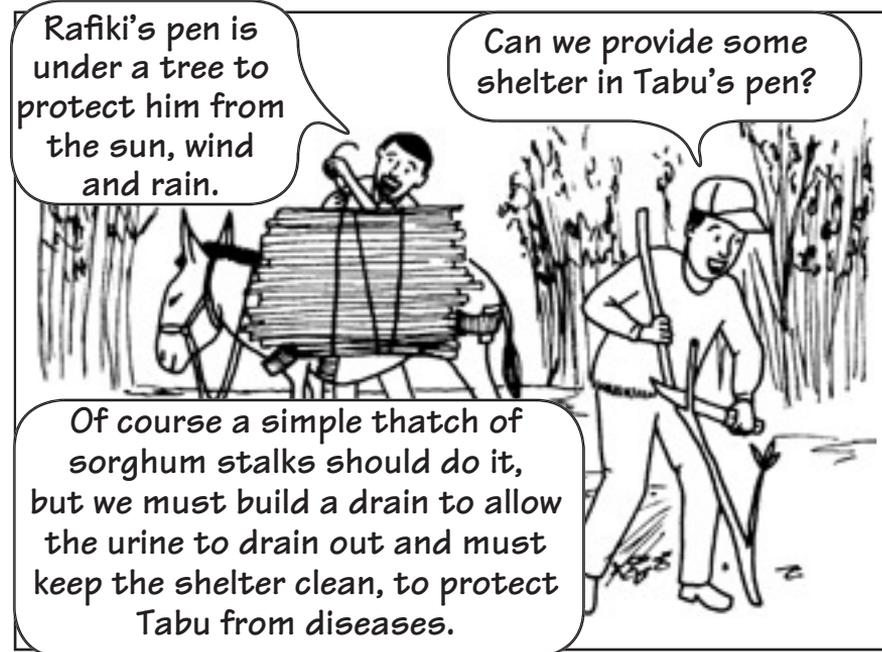
Okay, he can stay out there to graze.



Does he have something to shelter under?

There are some trees for him to shelter under.

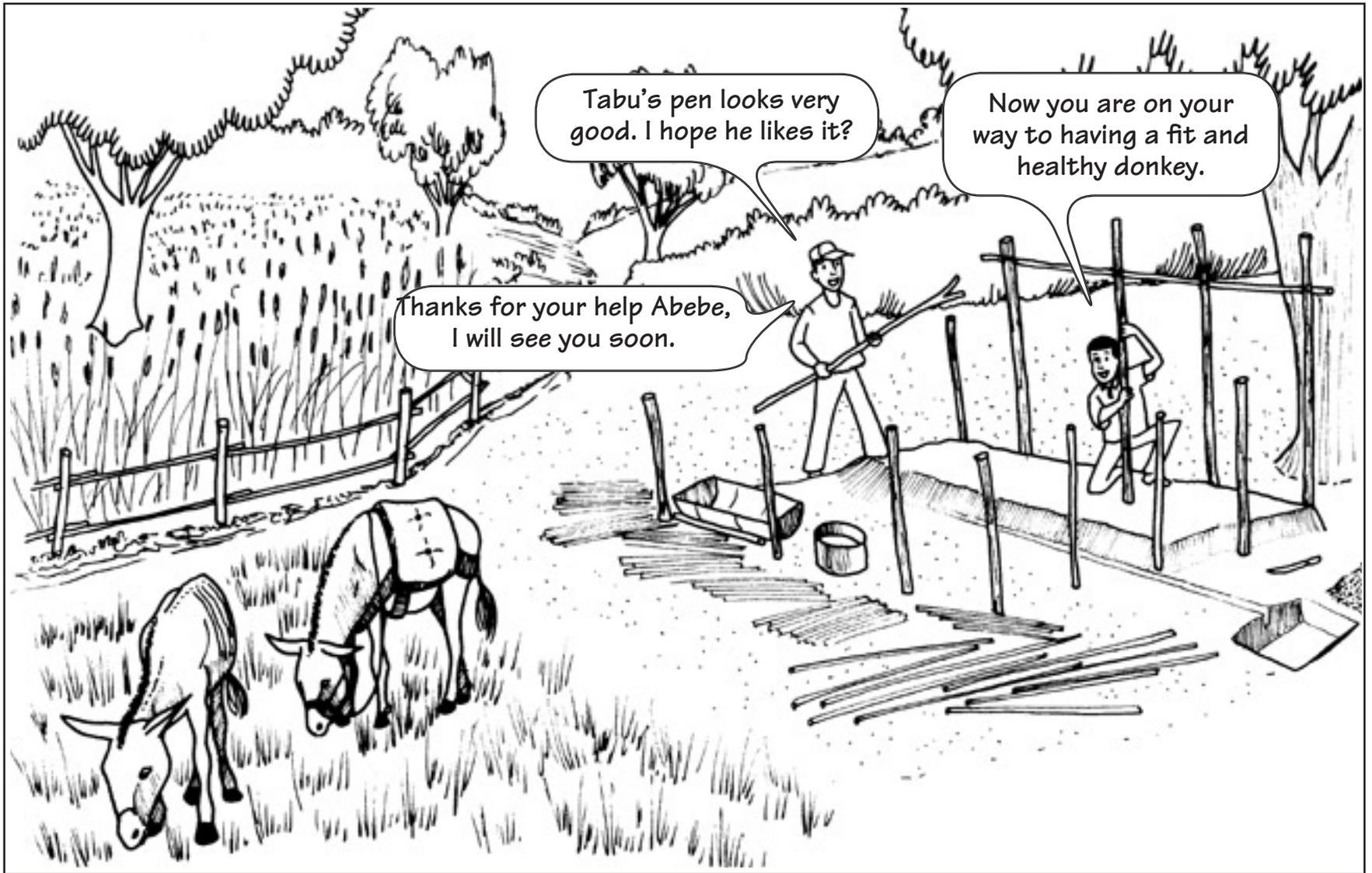
The trees need to be big enough to provide shade from the sun and protect Tabu from the wind and rain.



Rafiki's pen is under a tree to protect him from the sun, wind and rain.

Can we provide some shelter in Tabu's pen?

Of course a simple thatch of sorghum stalks should do it, but we must build a drain to allow the urine to drain out and must keep the shelter clean, to protect Tabu from diseases.



Tabu's pen looks very good. I hope he likes it?

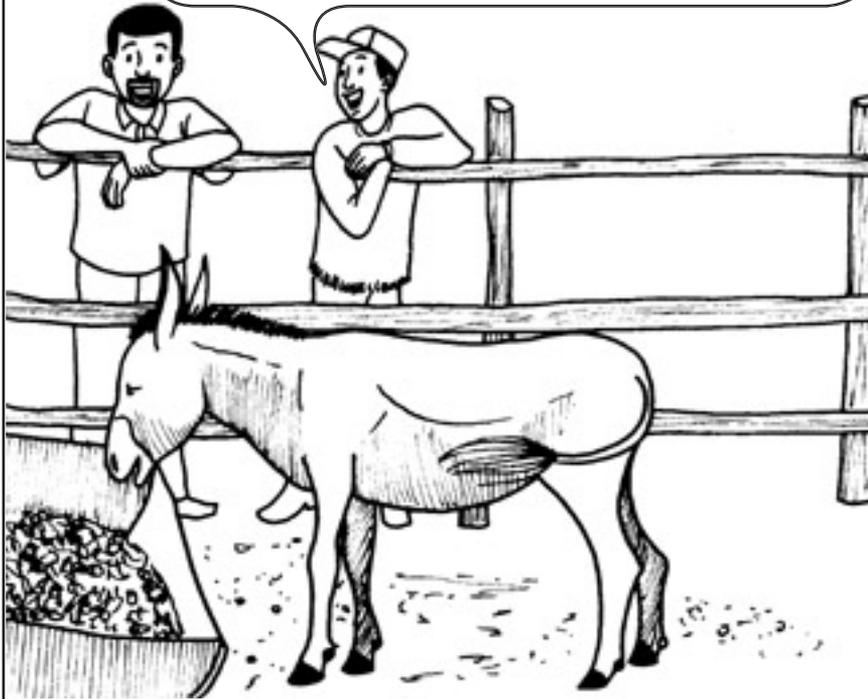
Now you are on your way to having a fit and healthy donkey.

Thanks for your help Abebe, I will see you soon.

Some weeks later.

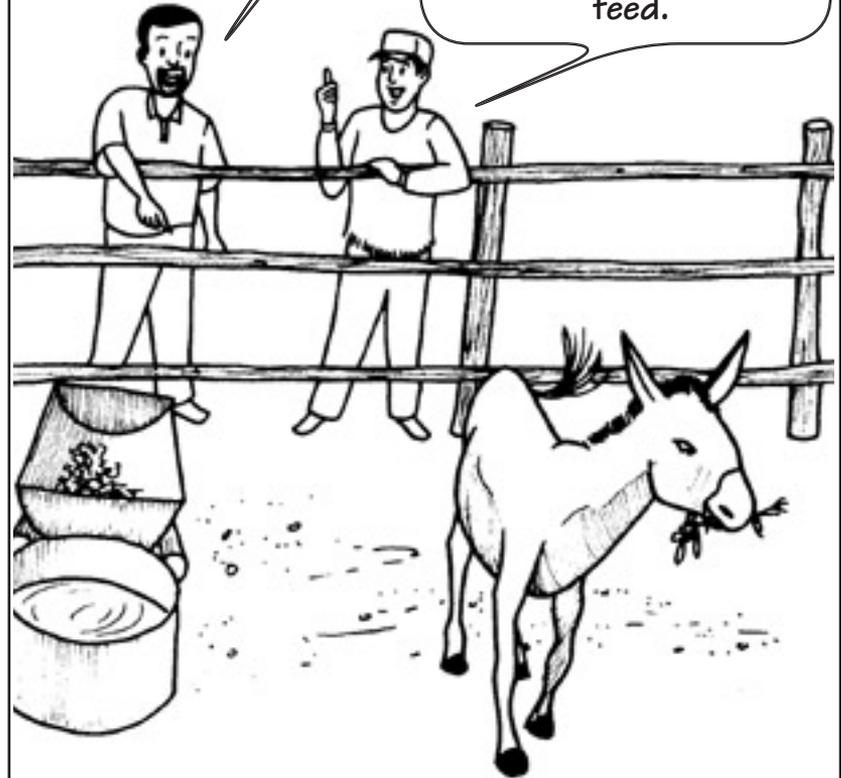
Tabu looks much healthier, his sores have gone, have you changed his harness?

The Donkey Sanctuary mobile clinic visited town and treated his sores. The vet showed me how to make a harness, so now nothing is rubbing against Tabu and his sores have healed.



Tabu's pen is very clean, I see you have a salt/mineral block and a water trough. How is everything else going?

Tabu is grazing in the morning and late afternoon for at least an hour at a time and I give him tef straw at night. When he is working he gets extra feed.

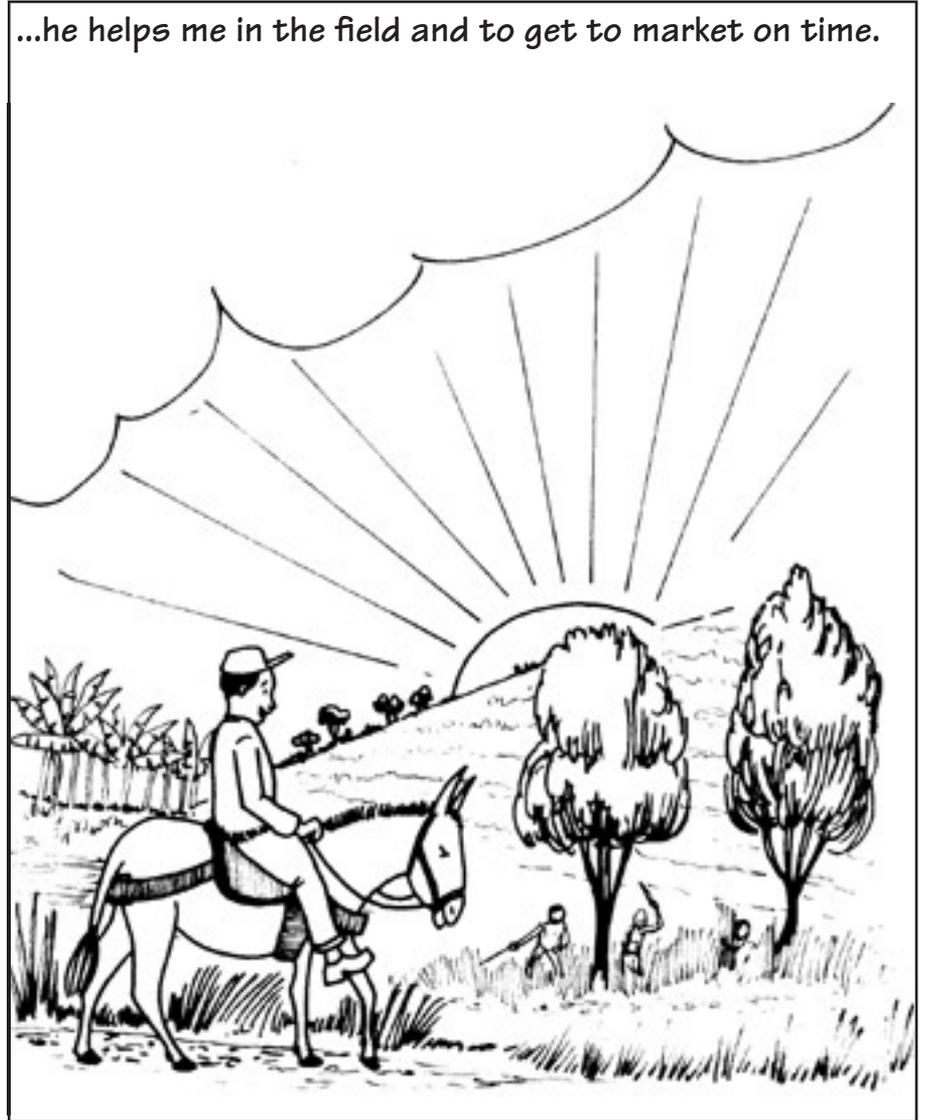


So Kebede, is Tabu still stubborn and slow?

He is working much harder, my wife now uses him to go and collect water and firewood.



...he helps me in the field and to get to market on time.

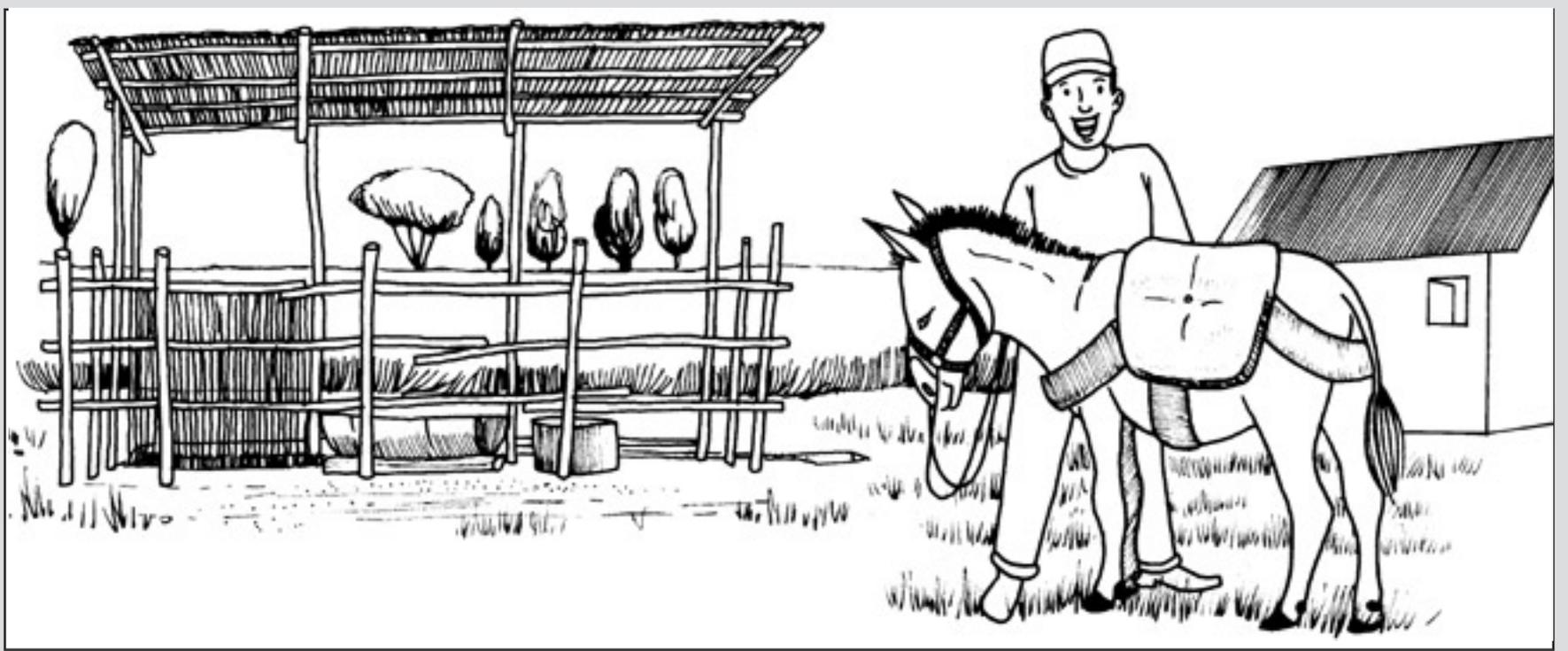


Some people from the village have borrowed him, and they have promised to help me at harvest time.



He also guards the other animals. Even my neighbours have stopped complaining, as he is quieter now. Now that I am taking better care of him, he is taking better care of my family.





Now look at your donkey and how you take care of it and compare it to Abebe and Kebede.

1. When was the last time you wormed your donkey?
2. Look at the water. Is it clean? Is there enough?
3. Look at the harnessing and cart you use for your donkey. Could it be improved? How could this be done. - Discuss it with the Donkey Health and Welfare Project vet or your local Animal Health Assistant.
4. Look at the feed. How long is your donkey getting to graze? Are you giving your donkey extra food? What kinds of food? Is there enough? Does your donkey get salt?.
5. Do your donkey's feet need trimming?

If you have any questions please ask the Donkey Health and Welfare Project vet or the Animal Health Assistant or a neighbour like Juma.