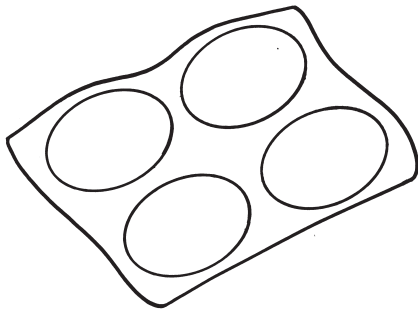


A picnic at the pond

Once upon a time there was a beautiful pond. Many animals lived happily there, the birds sang while building their nests, the ducks swam around and quacked while the frogs croaked and sat on lily pads.



One day a family came to the pond. They drove there in their car. They thought it was a lovely place so they sat on the grass and had a picnic. They threw sticks and stones into the water and made lots of noise. The animals hid away. Some of the tadpoles and frogspawn in the pond got hurt.



When it was time for them to go home they left their rubbish behind. There were sharp metal cans, plastic loops, some broken glass and a few plastic bags. It looked horrible.

When the people had gone, the animals came back. Some of the ducks hurt themselves in the broken glass. Other animals got tangled up in the plastic loops or



caught in bottles. The frogs stopped croaking and things went still and quiet. The other animals that lived in the pond began to leave.

People got worried about the pond because it wasn't beautiful any more. Someone saw the animals that were hurt and called the RSPCA. An RSPCA inspector came and took away the animals that were hurt.

Some of the people who lived near the pond decided to do something about the pond. They cleaned it out, taking all the rubbish away carefully. They put out rubbish bins for people to use. They put up signs as well – asking people who visited the pond to think about the animals that lived there.



Slowly, the animals came back to the pond. The ducks paddled about and quacked, the frogs croaked and the dragonflies danced across the water. People still come and visit the pond – but when they do they think about the animals that live there and how they feel.