#### NO POGS ALLOWED

#### by Linda Ashman

[Note: The text *in italics* describes the action in the illustrations. Actual text for the book is written **IN BOLP**.]

4-5 View of a restaurant with a big marquis sign that reads **ALBERTO'S CITY LIGHTS RESTAURANT** on a Main Street in a medium-sized town or city. A boy, accompanied by a St. Bernard, opens the door to go in. The owner, Alberto, turns the two away, then quickly scrawls out a sign which he puts in the window:

#### NO POGS ALLOWED

The boy sits on some nearby steps beside a large fountain. He pulls out a bag of crackers, which he shares with the dog.

6-7 A girl with a cat enters the same restaurant. Alberto boots them out, too, then takes a marker and adds to the sign. It now reads:

#### NO POGS OR CATS ALLOWED

The girl and the cat, dejected, sit down beside the boy and his dog. The boy offers some crackers. The cat and dog look at each other warily.

8-9 A woman dressed like a magician enters the restaurant with a large rabbit in her enormous tote bag. The owner sends her away, then snatches the sign and adds to it:

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#### NO

### POGS OR CATS OR BUNNIES ALLOWED

The woman joins the group on the steps, pulls some carrots out of her bag and shares them with the group. The cat and dog appear more comfortable with each other, but aren't too sure about the rabbit.

10-11 A couple enters the restaurant, accompanied by an aardvark. Alberto looks at the creature quizzically, then shakes his head emphatically. He starts to add "AARDVARK" to his sign, then has a better idea:

# NO ONE POGS OR CATS OR BUNNIES OR AARDV WITH FUR ALLOWED

The disappointed couple notices the magician, now juggling, over by the steps and joins the group. Meanwhile, a food vendor arrives and begins setting up her cart and umbrella near the steps and the restaurant.

12-13 A few customers (without animals) enter the restaurant. Alberto welcomes them, and notices with satisfaction the would-be customers with furry animals (including an organ grinder and his monkey, a family with a llama, someone with a kangaroo) who read his sign and walk away. The turned-away customers join the group on the steps or line up for the food vendor, who cheerfully fills their orders.

14-15 A young man with a large parrot on his shoulder appears at the restaurant.

Alberto thumps his head, realizing his sign didn't cover everything. He shows the man the door, then revises his sign:

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# NO ONE POGS OR CATS OR BUNNIES OR AARDY WITH FUR OR FEATHERS ALLOWED

The magician waves the man over, and he and his parrot join the lively group. Animals and people appear to be enjoying themselves, and the food vendor's line is growing.

16-17 A family approaches the restaurant. One of the children is holding a large lizard. Alberto, flustered that his sign <u>still</u> doesn't cover everything, waves them away and revises it again:

# NO ONE POGS OR CATS OR BUNNIES OR AARDV WITH FUR OR FEATHERS OR SCALES ALLOWED

The family joins the group. The children splash in the fountain. Other potential customers with furry, scaly and feathery animals (including a man in a tuxedo with penguins) read Alberto's sign, shrug their shoulders or shake their heads, and join the growing crowd nearby. Alberto's restaurant, in contrast, has relatively few customers.

18-19 A woman and her daughter, dressed in western wear, come to the restaurant with their armadillo. Alberto, looking like he's about to explode, waves his arms wildly to block their way, then revises his sign again.

# NO ONE POGS OR CATS OR BUNNIES OR AARDY WITH FUR OR FEATHERS OR SCALES OR SHELLS ALLOWED

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The woman, the girl, and the armadillo join the group on the steps. The penguins are splashing in the fountain with the children. The vendor's line continues to grow, with a wild mix of people and their animals with fur, feathers, scales and shells. Even a few people without animals pass by Alberto's to wait in line at the food vendor's.

20-21 Alberto sits on the stoop in front of his nearly-empty restaurant. He spots a boy on the back of an elephant coming down the street toward him. He scratches his head, wondering what to put on his sign. Thought bubbles show that he thinks of adding "SKIN" to the restrictions on the sign then realizes that would cover his human customers. He thinks of adding "BIG EARS" then realizes that, too, would include a few of his human customers.

22-23 The boy and his elephant arrive at the restaurant in time to see Alberto's revised sign:

# NO ONE POGS OR CATS OR BUNNIES OR AARDV WITH FUR OR FEATHERS OR SCALES OR SHELLS OR TRUNKS ALLOWED

The boy shrugs his shoulders and he and the elephant join the happy crowd near the steps and the fountain.

24-25 Alberto sits on the stoop in front of his empty restaurant, head in his hands, looking forlornly at all the fun everyone else is having: the elephant is spraying water from the fountain on the kids and kangaroo, the parrot is on someone's head, the llama is giving rides, etc., and there's a long line of people (many with animals) ordering food from the vendor. The boy (the first one with the St. Bernard) is helping her.

26-27 The vendor looks worried. She's running out of food, and still has a long line. The boy gets an idea. He and his dog approach Alberto, sitting glumly on his stoop. He looks hesitant, then waves them both into his restaurant.

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- 28-29 The boy emerges from the restaurant pushing a big cart of goodies, the St. Bernard has a barrel of lemonade, and behind them is Alberto carrying a towering cake, all of which they take to the vendor and her (now happy) customers.
- 30-31 Next day, the restaurant is bustling with all sorts of human and animal guests inside and out (café tables are set up on the sidewalk). Alberto and the vendor are huddled over what looks like a sign, writing something which can't quite be seen.
- 32. A view of the outside of the restaurant. Someone is rearranging the letters on the marquis to read **ALL CRITTERS BISTRO** (this uses all the same letters as the original sign with a few left over, perhaps lying on the ground). Alberto and the vendor together hang the new sign in the window. It reads:

UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT
EVERYONE ALLOWED!

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