

Hattie had always carried a notebook with her. Its pages were filled with dreams, sketches, and lists written in bright pink pen. On one page she had drawn a shiny hair salon with sparkling mirrors and shelves of bows and brushes. On another page was a cheerful ice cream shop with striped awnings and flavours like Bubblegum Cloud, Strawberry Swirl, and Puppy Paw Vanilla. On yet another page was the biggest dream of all: a warm and welcoming dog shelter where every abandoned dog would find love.

Ever since she was little, Hattie had loved making people feel happy. She practised braiding hair on her dolls and on her younger cousins, adding ribbons and tiny flower clips. "One day," she would say, "I'm going to be the best hairdresser in the country."

But Hattie's dreams didn't stop there. She also wanted to become a PR influencer, someone who shared beautiful products and inspiring stories online. She adored books by Holly Webb and hoped that one day she might receive a kind message from the author whose animal stories had inspired her love for dogs.

Hattie also dreamed of working with Jellycat. Her bedroom was filled with soft bunnies, bashful puppies, and cuddly bears. She imagined posting charming photos of her favourite plush toys beside scoops of ice cream and freshly styled hair. Her followers would love her cheerful world of colour, kindness, and animals.

Still, the best part of every day came when Hattie returned home.

The front door would swing open, and six Staffordshire Bull Terriers would race to greet her. There was Blue, with a smoky grey coat; Honey, golden and warm; Midnight, glossy black; Snowflake, bright white; Coco, rich chocolate brown; and Rosie, with a reddish tan coat and a pink nose. Their tails wagged so hard that the whole hallway seemed to dance.

Hattie knelt on the floor as the dogs crowded around her, licking her face and snuggling close. In those moments, she felt happier than anywhere else in the world.

Her home was lively with more animals too. Marmalade the ginger cat slept on the windowsill, Nibbles the rabbit hopped through the garden, and two budgies named Sky and Mint chirped cheerful songs from their cage.

One sunny afternoon, Hattie looked around at her beloved animals and smiled. She realised that all her dreams were connected. Hairdressing would make people feel confident. The ice cream shop would bring joy. Influencing would spread positivity. Working with Jellycat would celebrate comfort and imagination. And the dog shelter would give animals a second chance.

Years later, Hattie's dreams came true. Her salon sparkled, her ice cream shop was famous, and her dog shelter was full of wagging tails and happy endings. Every evening, she still came home to her six colourful staffies.

And every time they ran to greet her, Hattie knew she was living the life she had once written in her little pink notebook.