



# Tuscani - The Red Setter



A Red Setter is a beautiful dog. It has lovely reddish brown and long hair. They are lively dogs and many years ago they were used as hunting dogs. This one had a beautiful name, too: Tuscani.

He lived with a young family on a quiet property in the bush. Their lovely cottage was surrounded by very tall Jarrah trees. Pretty green Ivy was growing all over the front wall of their house. Next to the carport was Tuscani's kennel.

During the night Tuscani was always tied up with a chain to stop him from chasing the kangaroos and rabbits.

Kangaroos and rabbits are wide awake during the night when we are warmly tucked up in bed. When the sun gets up in the morning the kangaroos and rabbits find a place to rest. Then it is their turn to sleep.

The kangaroos sleep under some bushes or under an overhanging rock, and the rabbits dig holes under the ground. These are called burrows. That's their home. Sometimes many rabbit families live together in these burrows. They feel quite safe there deep under the ground.

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Every morning Tuscani, the Red Setter, wants to run through the bush and chase those rabbits who haven't gone to sleep yet. But sometimes he has to wait a long time before his boss takes him off the chain.

Ah, there is his boss already.

The boss takes the chain off his collar and says: "Off you go now and don't chase any rabbits." But Tuscani is already far away and does not hear this any more. For that's exactly what he wants to do, chase rabbits.



Chasing rabbits is good fun! He hopes he is not too late yet. Did he see some movement amongst the scrub? Yes, sure enough, there were still a few rabbits around. As quick as lightning Tuscani chases after them.



The rabbits flee in panic and fortunately they can also run very fast. Just in time they reach the entrance of their family's burrow under some fallen tree trunk. Their mother was already getting quite worried.

Very often she had to tell them to be back in time before that dog gets loose. They never listened very well to their mother which was not very good. This made their mother often angry .....and also sad. This time they only just made it in time.

Perhaps one day they will learn to listen and to be obedient.

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Six little bunnies were huddled close together in the back of the burrow. They were very frightened. Their mother was close to the entrance of their burrow. She was keeping watch over her little ones. Her children did not understand danger.

That's why it's so important that they listen to their mother. They waited patiently for a long time. He is still there, their mother told them. She could still see that hairy paw. And she could also still hear the puffing and snorting. This made the little ones quite scared. But they knew they did not need to worry because their Mum was keeping watch near the entrance.



After a while Mum said: "I think he is gone. You just stay there while I go and check up". While Mum was gone they waited very patiently. At least they tried to wait patiently because they wanted to go back outside to play.

After a little while Mother rabbit came back. "Yes, he is gone", she said. "I saw him go back to the house. His boss must have called him", she said. "You can go and play now".

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But Mother rabbit did not know how disobedient the dog sometimes was. He started to go back to the house but,.....after a while he thought of the little bunnies again. So he quickly turned around and went back to the bunnies' burrow.

And would you believe that just as he came quite close to the opening of the burrow all the little bunnies came out to play. One after the other they hopped out. As usual the youngest one was last. He was always the last one out..... and the last one in.



He was not so very fast. As soon as the bunnies saw the red haired dog they got a fright. Who would not get a fright? What went wrong? Their mother had said that he had gone home. **And there he was again!**

No wonder they were scared. They all ran in different directions. The youngest one, of course, was slow again and could not make up his mind which way to go.

Tuscani, the dog, saw the little bunny's hesitation and quickly ran after him. The poor little creature ran as fast as his little legs could carry him back to his mother. The other rabbits were already on their way back home, too. They did not want to get caught.

And so one after the other they hopped safely back into the burrow. But the little one was too slow as usual. The dog had nearly caught up with the little bunny and was just about to bite it in the leg. That was going to be his dinner. And he was not going to miss out on it.

The poor little bunny ran as fast as it could but the dog, of course, was much faster. Tuscani had long legs and the little bunny was only small. Surely it will be caught by the dog. The poor little bunny had no chance. It would only be a matter of seconds and he would be dog's dinner.

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Back at home Mother was getting worried about her children. Just after they had left she checked to make sure all was well. And what did she see? There was that dog back again. And her children were running in all directions.

The poor things were so very, very frightened. But fortunately they all managed to reach the burrow in time. One after the other they hopped back into the burrow. One, two, three, four.....five and .....

### Where was the sixth bunny?



Where was the little one? "Don't worry, Mum", said the other bunnies. "He is always the last one. He is so slow. He will be there in a minute", the other children said. But he did not come back. They heard a lot of noise outside. The dog was barking loudly and they also heard the twittering of a little bird.

What was happening? Just as the dog was going to catch the little fluffy bunny a tiny little creature frightened the dog. It was a chirpy little Willy Wag Tail. This little black and white bird flew right over the dog's head.



The dog did not know what was happening. He looked up and sideways. There it was again and it came straight for him. It kept on circling around the dog's head and it made him very dizzy. When the Willy Wag Tail had flown away again he could not see the little bunny any more.

Where had it gone?

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The little bunny had taken the opportunity to run back to his hiding place. He did not waste any time. He raced home and hopped safely back into the burrow. There was his mother. She was so glad to have him back safely. The brothers and sisters, too, were very happy to see their little brother again. They did not think he was going to get back in time.

Yes, this time it was very close. The dog had nearly caught it. If that little bird had not made the dog so dizzy it would have been too late. Then he would have been eaten by the dog.

All the bunnies were very tired now. And they all went to bed early. Soon they were fast asleep. And do you know what the five bunnies were dreaming about? They were all dreaming about a friendly little bird, the Willy Wag Tail. They thought how kind it was to help their little brother. Without this little bird's help he would not have been back with them now.

The little one, too, was dreaming quite contentedly. He was happy to be home with his mother. Mother was also very happy and thankful.

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