

September 2, 2026

31415 Mais Farm Road
Camden, TN 38320

Dear Professor and Students,

I write this letter seeking your help. I live in what you would call the country, on the outskirts of Camden, Tennessee. My wife died a few years ago and, since my children grew up and moved away, I now run the farm on my own. Having a small farm, I cannot afford to hire folks to help me when I take my corn to market or take corn to my neighbors across the river. During the past several years, this has not been a problem since there have been no real demands on my attention and nothing to do other than tend to my fields. However, all this changed this past summer – actually in May but the true problem was created during the summer. In May, I won a chicken at the county fair. While she was originally intended to be a roaster for a dinner (according to the organizers of the raffle), I just could not bring myself to kill her. So, she became my pet and a nice source of fresh eggs each day. *Chicken Little*, as I call her, and I were getting along quite nicely together until July when I found an injured young fox by the side of the road. I took the fox home and nursed him back to health. When he would not return to the wild, once he had recovered, he too became a pet; I call him *Foxy Loxy*. Now I am a bit less lonely since I have the company of *Foxy Loxy* and *Chicken Little*. *Foxy* and *Chick* (their nicknames) are well behaved when I am around but when left on their own, *Foxy Loxy* tries to eat *Chicken Little*, and *Chicken Little* tries to gorge herself on my corn. Other than that, *Foxy* and *Chick* are quite well behaved and will remain where I tell them to as long as they are not left unattended together; this is quite unusual for such animals, making them even more special to me.

That said, let me tell you my problem. I need to take some of my corn to a neighbor across the river. Unfortunately, this would necessitate leaving *Foxy Loxy* and *Chicken Little* alone together since my rowboat can only handle my weight and that of one other object; of course, part of the problem is a balance issue. I found that I cannot leave either *Foxy* or *Chick* locked in the house or the barn – they seem terrified to be left alone in an enclosed space and tear up all objects around them, sometimes injuring themselves while trying to get out. Would you please help me to devise a plan that will allow me to take *Foxy Loxy*, *Chicken Little*, my sack of corn, and me across the river using my rowboat?

Any help that you can provide would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best regards,

Renard

Renard Cornwald Poulet



<http://blogs.mazars.com/ireland/2013/09/27/the-fox-guarding-the-henhouse/#!/prettyPhoto/0/>