

Horatio the Heroic Hamster and a Cat (May contain traces of nuts)

Our hamster Nel had a pup,
She only produced the one.
We decided to call him Horatio,
After all he was Nel's son.

And when the charity "Hamsteraid",
Had "The Pups in Need Appeal".
He agreed to a sponsored marathon,
Inside his beloved wheel.

So I gave it a thorough service,
Then added some secret assisters.
Which made it spin at very high speed,
Whilst saving his feet from blisters.

An hour before the event began,
I fitted it firmly in place.
And when they blew the whistle,
He set off at quite a pace.

We cheered him on for an hour or so,
Then decided we'd go to bed.
Leaving the cat to adjudicate,
As into the night Horatio sped.

But soon we were living a nightmare,
When a loud crash ruined our nap.
The wheel fell off, crushed his cage,
And he shot out through the cat flap.

Horatio turned up the power,
He took off at such a rate.
Startling the garden gnomes,
And trashing the five bar gate.

We thought we'd seen the last of him,
As we sat there on the settee.
But guess who made the news headlines,
When the cat turned on the tv.

Huge crowds lined the roads,
Cheering and shouting hooray!
As he skirted the City of London,
And onto a motorway.

Speed cameras working overtime,
Recorded incredible speeds.
Racing past well known places,
Leicester, then Rotherham and Leeds.

The Scottish Highlands beckoned,
He passed lots of lochs.
Yet still he kept on going,
Ruining his brand new socks.

Then the tv reports got sketchy,
Which seemed to anger the cat.
As he held tight to the tv remote,
Refusing to give it back.

I found his attitude odd,
For as far as I could recall.
He had no time for the hamster,
In fact never liked him at all.

That's when I decided to check,
What had gone wrong that night.
How did the wheel come adrift,
Giving us all such a fright.

Strong nuts held the wheel in place,
Being thorough was always my manner.
Then bingo! Under the cat's blanket,
Two hexagon nuts and one spanner.

Soon our hero was back from his trip,
In the streets a welcoming crowd.
I asked the cat why he wasn't out there,
He claimed it was boring and loud.

Now was the time to challenge him,
I'd soon show him who's in charge.
I produced one spanner, a pair of nuts,
Then shouted, "Sabotage"!

"You're a fine one to talk"! he snapped,
"And do not pretend to forget.
When you took me, just one year old,
And dumped me down at the vet.

But I took it all in my stride,
Coming home minus some bits.
Now you go nuts over two other nuts,
You are such a big hypocrite"!

"Well you lost that one", I told myself,
"You certainly did", I replied.
"What do I do now"? I asked,
The respondent, he just sighed.

I decided I must treat them equally,
So with the cat I did a deal.
For not taking Horatio off for an op,
The cat, well he got his own wheel!

Horatio? Well he got a toolbox,
But I fear there will come a day.
When he learns how to slacken nuts,
And the cat? He'll miles away!