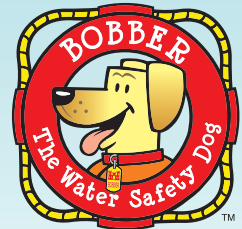




US Army Corps  
of Engineers®

# BOBBER

## Goes to the Beach



[www.Bobber.info](http://www.Bobber.info)



Illustrated by Toby Isbell

This book belongs to

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Howdy folks, I'm Ranger Buck! I'm a park ranger with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Welcome to Waterbowl Lake! It's the home of Bobber the Water Safety Dog. Bobber is a good dog and helps park rangers like me teach our visitors about being safe around water.



Today, Bobber is taking the pups, Corkey and Sinker, for a swim. They're going to Sandbox Beach, which is Waterbowl Lake's best place to swim. It's best because it's a designated swimming area. To help you stay safe always swim in a designated swimming area.





Corkey is a good girl because she wears her life jacket in and near water. She loves to float on water just like her favorite toy rubber ducky. Knowing how to swim and float well will help you stay safe. Did you know Bobber and Corkey are named after things that float well? When people fish, they often use a bobber or cork on their fishing line.



Sinker is a good boy, but he sometimes forgets to be safe and doesn't wear his life jacket when he is supposed to. Not wearing a life jacket and not knowing how to swim or float can cause you to sink just like a sinker on a fishing line makes the hook and bait sink underwater. Don't be a sinker! Wear a life jacket when in, on, or near water.



On the way to the beach, they see Tackle doing his favorite thing, fishing! I know what you're thinking. Bobbers, corks, sinkers, and hooks are all called fishing tackle, and that must be how Tackle got his name. Good guess, but actually in his younger days Tackle was a football mascot for the Big City Bulldogs. These days he prefers fishing for catfish, of course.





There goes Ranger Jane on lake patrol. Park rangers use patrol boats to keep watch over the lake and help visitors stay safe. They sometimes even perform rescues. Hopefully, that won't be necessary today. When you see a park ranger give them a thumbs up because they help keep you safe.





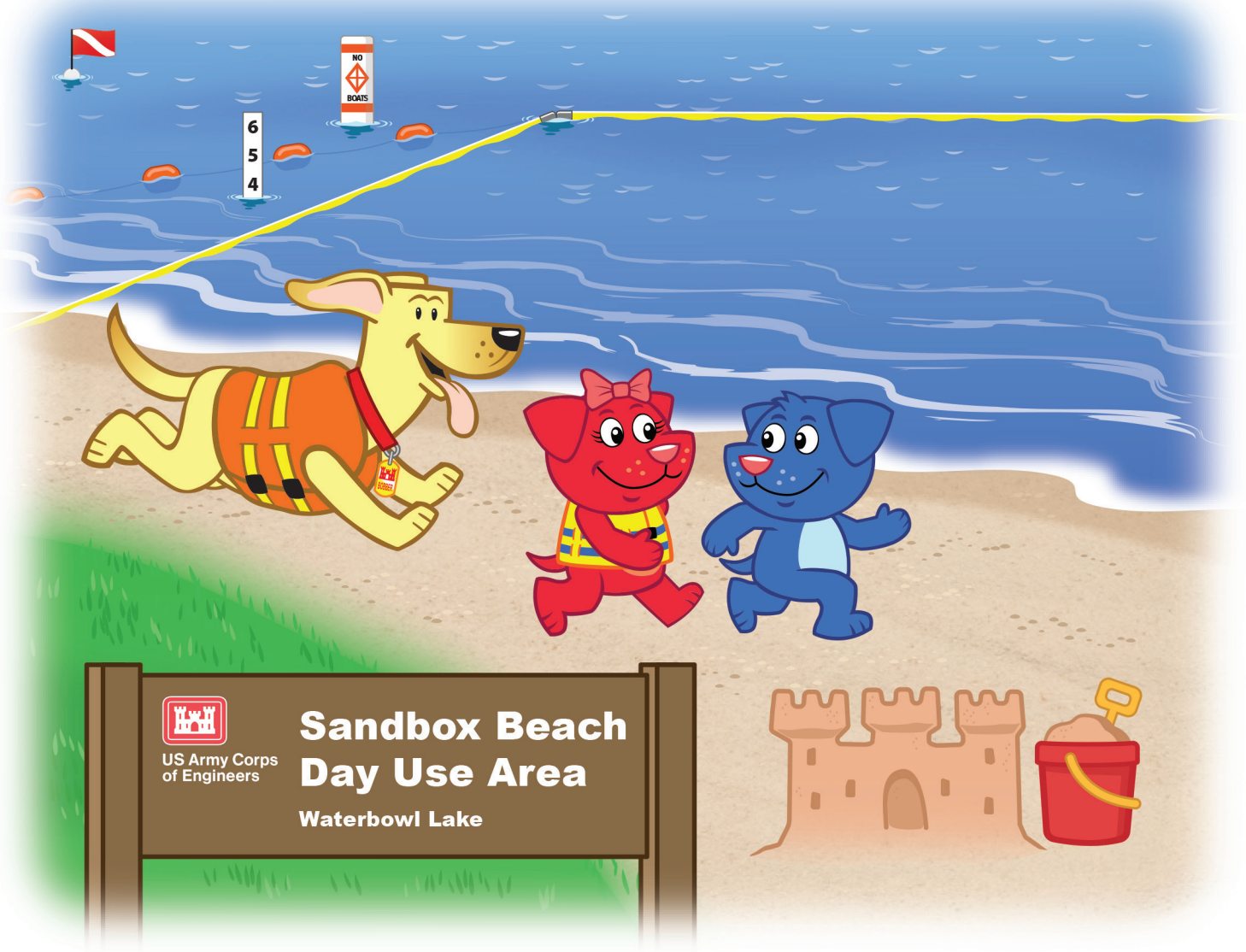
Sinker sees a funny flag floating near a big boat. Why, that's the Catnipso!  
It's the research vessel of famous underwater explorer Jacques Catsto. The  
flag means "diver down," and it lets boaters know a diver is in the area.



Today, Catsto is studying Waterbowl Lake's most popular species of fish, the catfish. When you visit a lake you might see all kinds of wildlife, even an underwater cat.



Ahh! Sandbox Beach — Waterbowl Lake's best place to swim, play, relax, or even make a sand castle. Have you noticed the logo for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is a castle? The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers takes care of places like Waterbowl Lake all over the country. If you go to one of these places you might see Bobber there.





First things first, let's make sure everyone has on their life jacket. Always make sure it's Coast Guard approved, has no damage, and fits you properly. Good job, Corkey! You're all set for a safe swim. Sinker???





What's this? Arm floaties shouldn't replace life jackets. If they pop and lose air, you will sink. It's best to stick with wearing a life jacket. Don't worry, Bobber knows where to get one.



Looks like local TV news reporter Ted E. Bear is at the lake today doing an interview with Ranger Toro. They're talking about the new life jacket loaner station at Waterbowl Lake.



The loaner station provides life jackets that visitors can use if they don't have their own. It's free to borrow one, and please return it to the loaner station at the end of the day. There you go, Sinker!





Now they can start their swim. See how Bobber is keeping a close eye on the puppies? Whenever you're in or near water there needs to be an adult you know very close by watching you. That way they can be sure you stay safe.





Blow up toys may be fun to play on, but just like arm floaties they shouldn't replace life jackets. If they pop or wind blows them away, you could be in over your head. Good thing Sinker is wearing a life jacket!



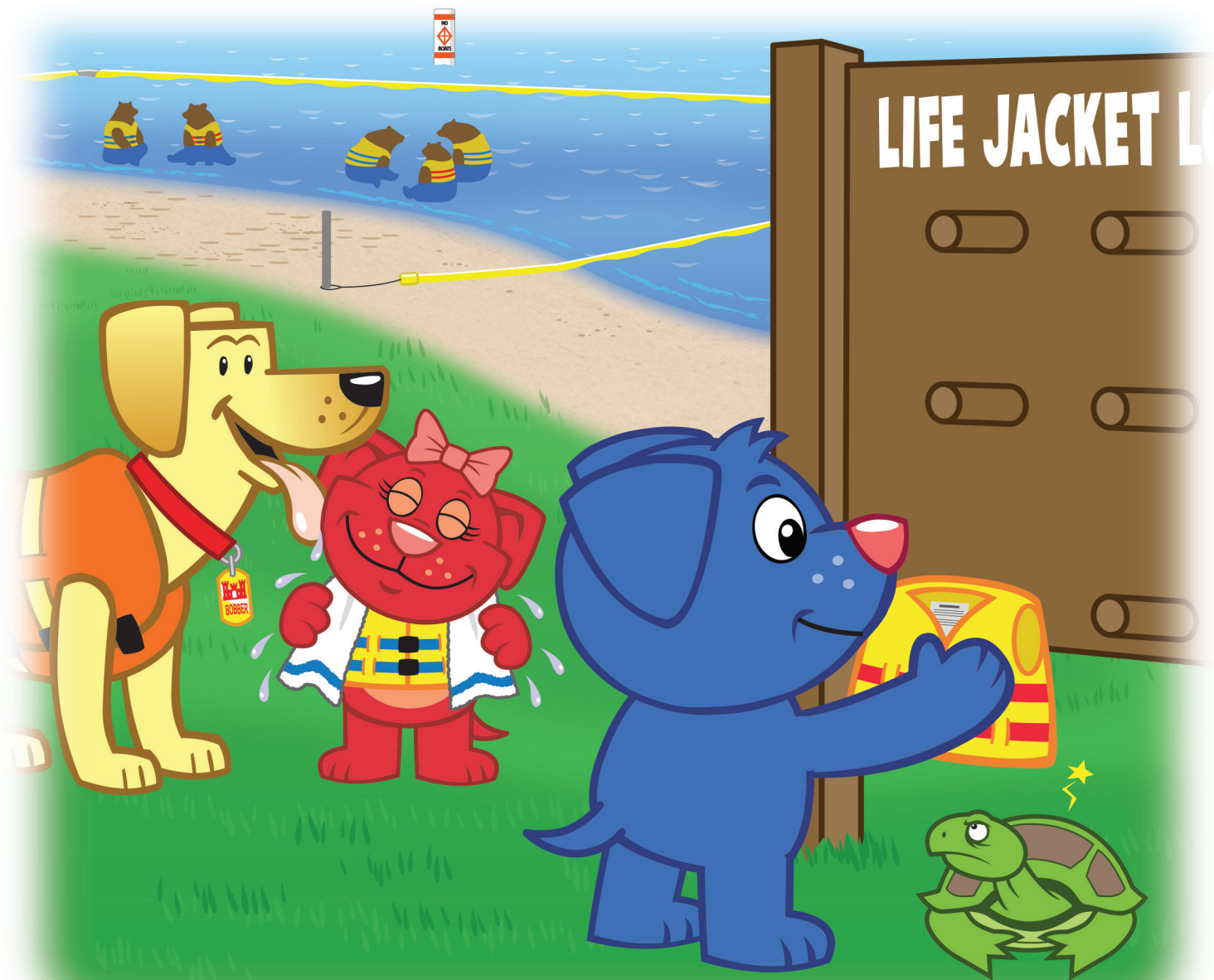
Running, splashing, and jumping in water can be fun, but you shouldn't dive in headfirst. The water might not be deep enough, or there may be something underwater that you don't see.



You wouldn't want to bump your head! Something like that might ruin your entire day at the beach.



Looks like the pups are done swimming. Sinker is returning the loaner life jacket so someone else can use it. Good pup! How about a nice cool treat, like a snow cone?





They're heading to the Wall-Nutt Bait Shop. It's Waterbowl Lake's best place to buy crickets, worms, and even snow cones! As a matter of fact, it's the only place.



Ms. Nutt runs the bait shop. She's about as squirrely as they come. If you ask her for a snow cone, she might give you a cup of worms. The bait shop has about everything a visitor to the lake needs, including life jackets!



Good choice, Sinker. That's a perfect fit! Now he's all set for the next swim. Remember folks, play it safe, keep a close eye on your kids, and when you're in, on, or near water make a life jacket your "vest" friend and wear it. I'm Ranger Buck, be safe and have fun visiting a lake near you!





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