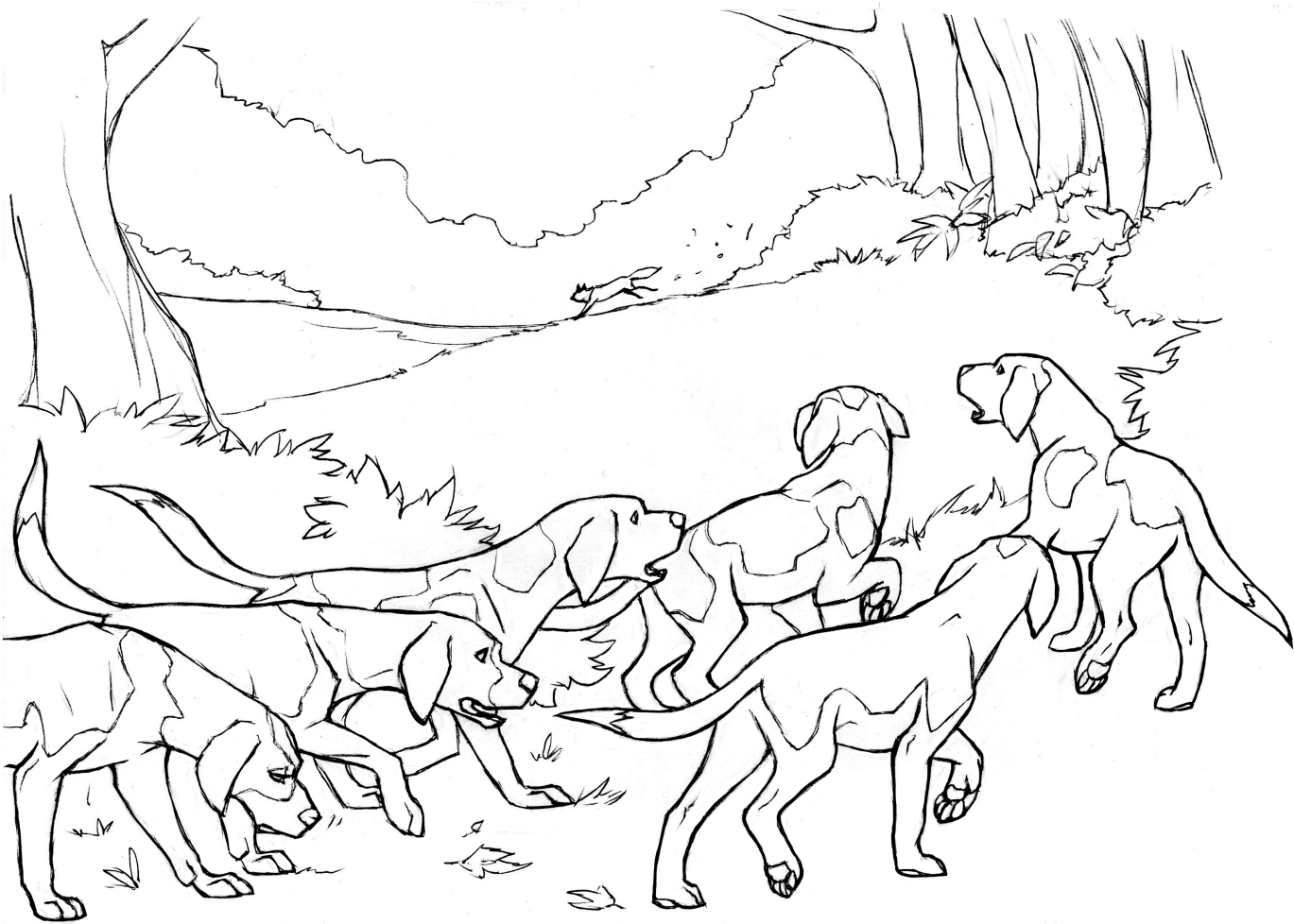
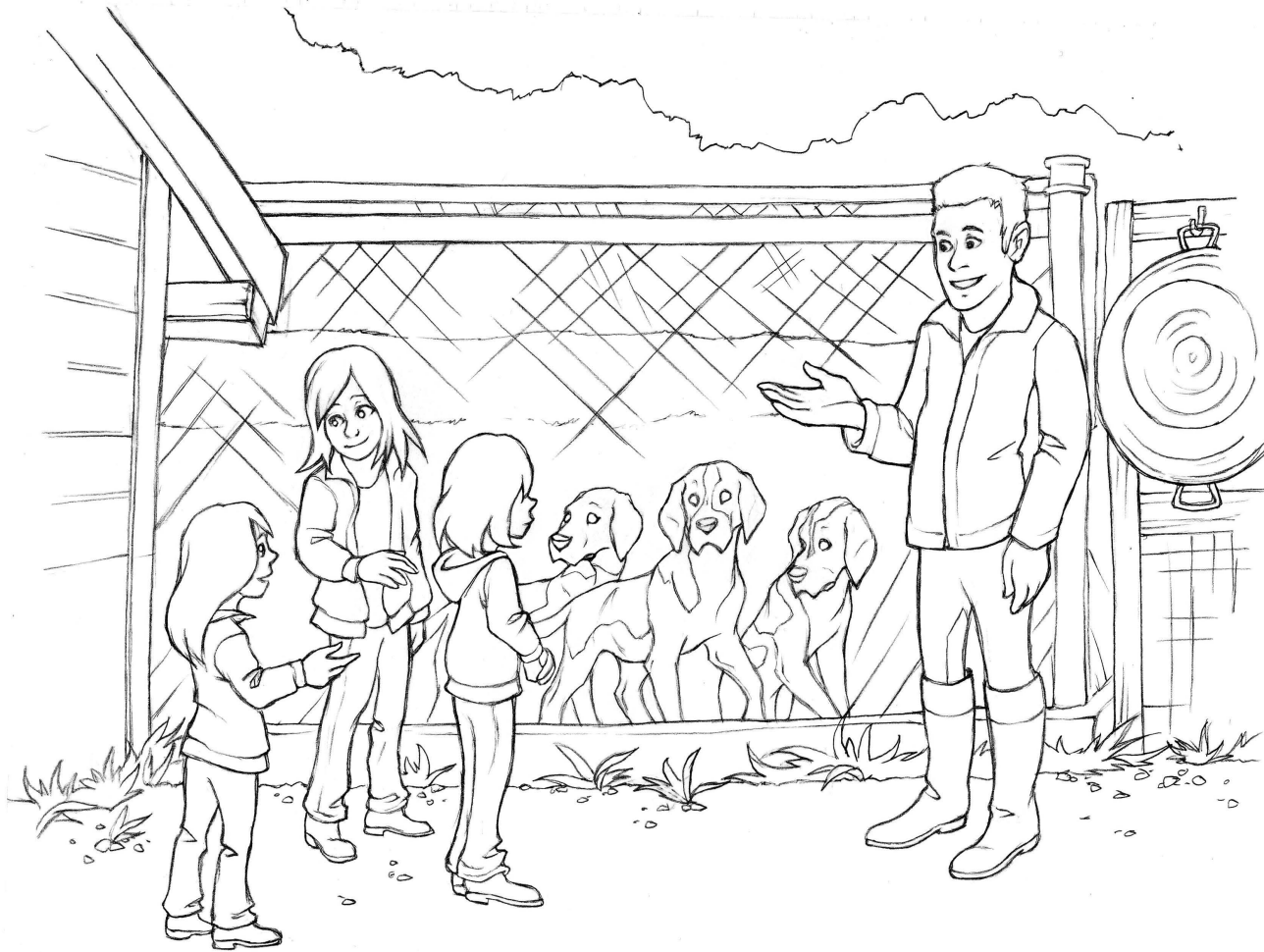


My First Foxhunt



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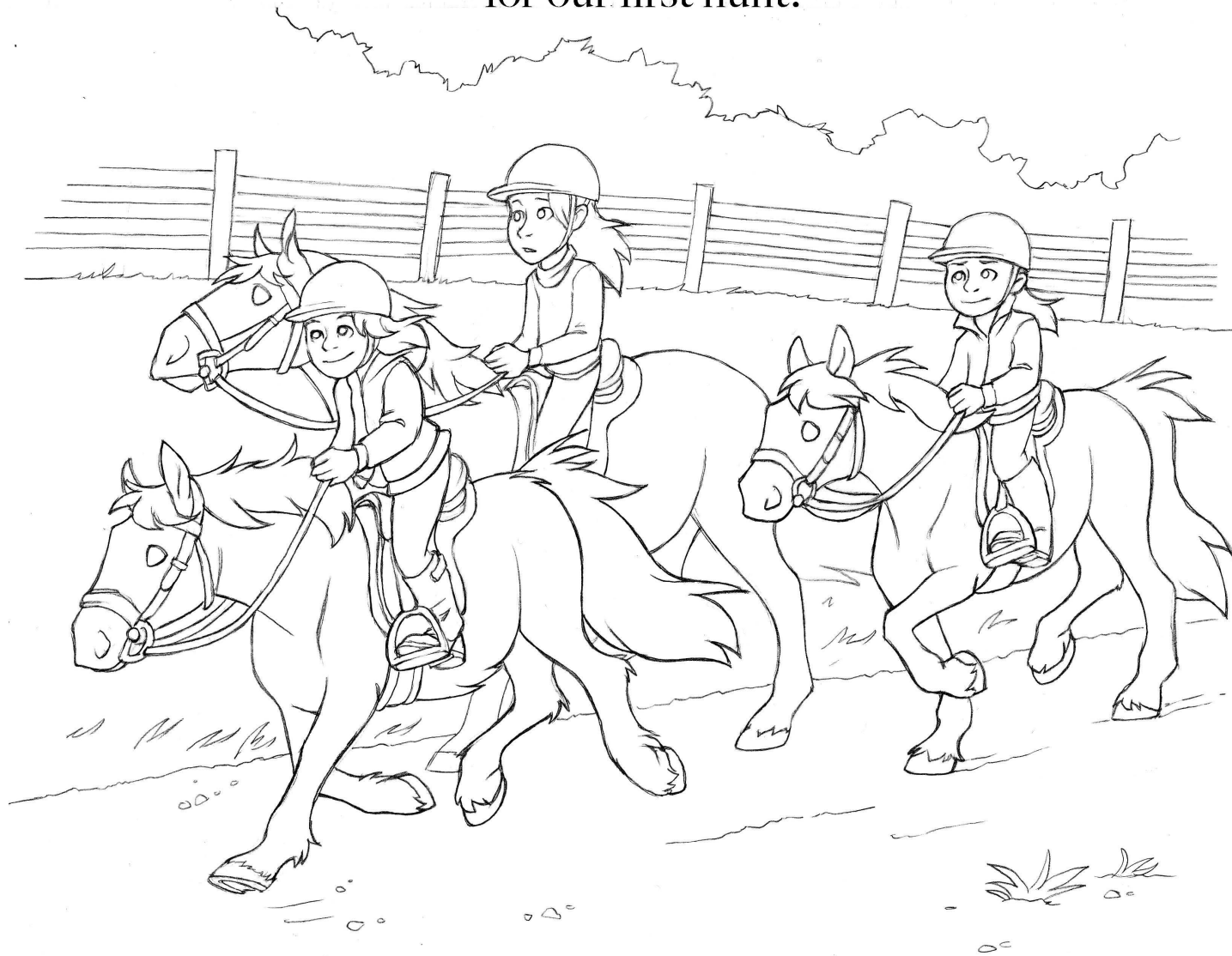
We came to the hunt kennels for a tour, and to meet the huntsman and the hounds – they were adorable, I wanted to come hunting with them!



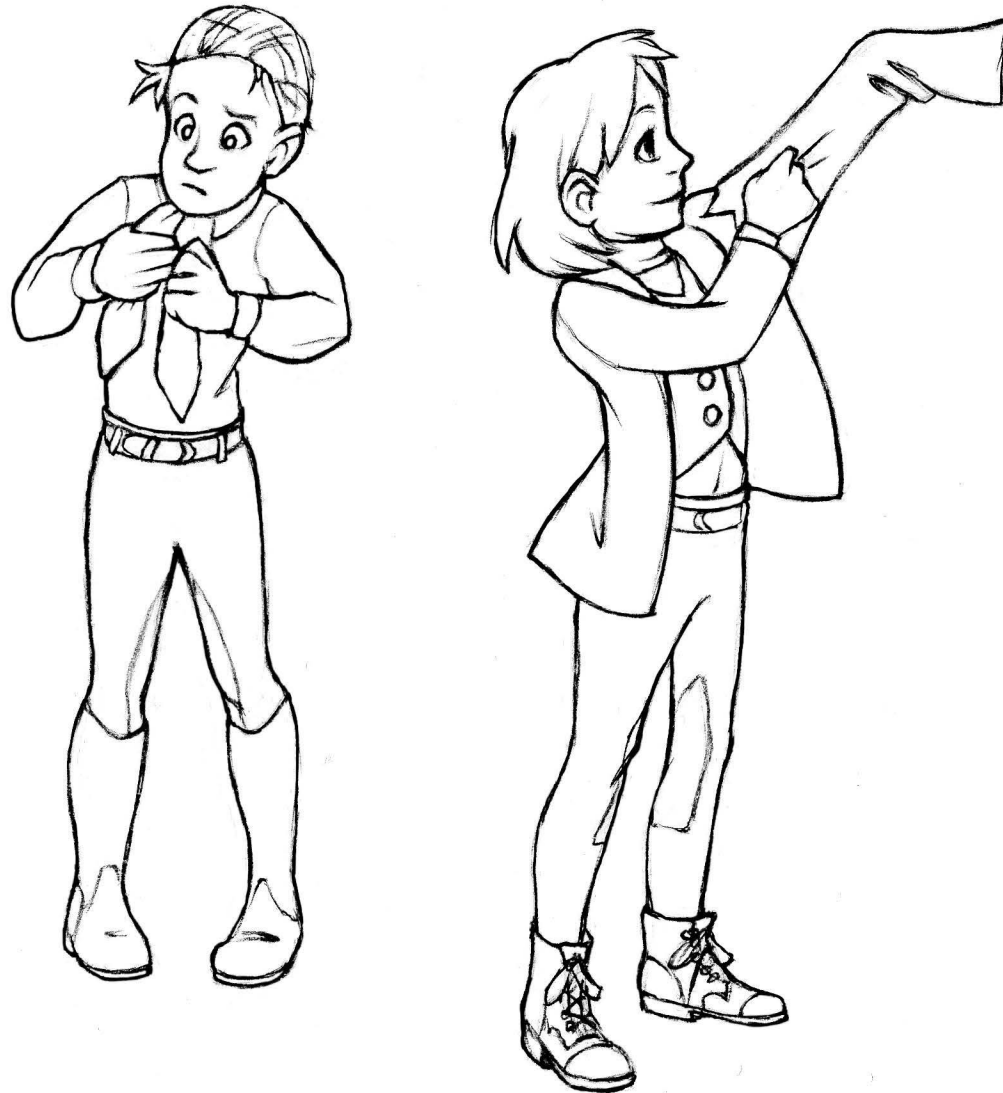
I knew I had a lot of cleaning up to do before Kipper was ready to appear
in the hunt field, though.



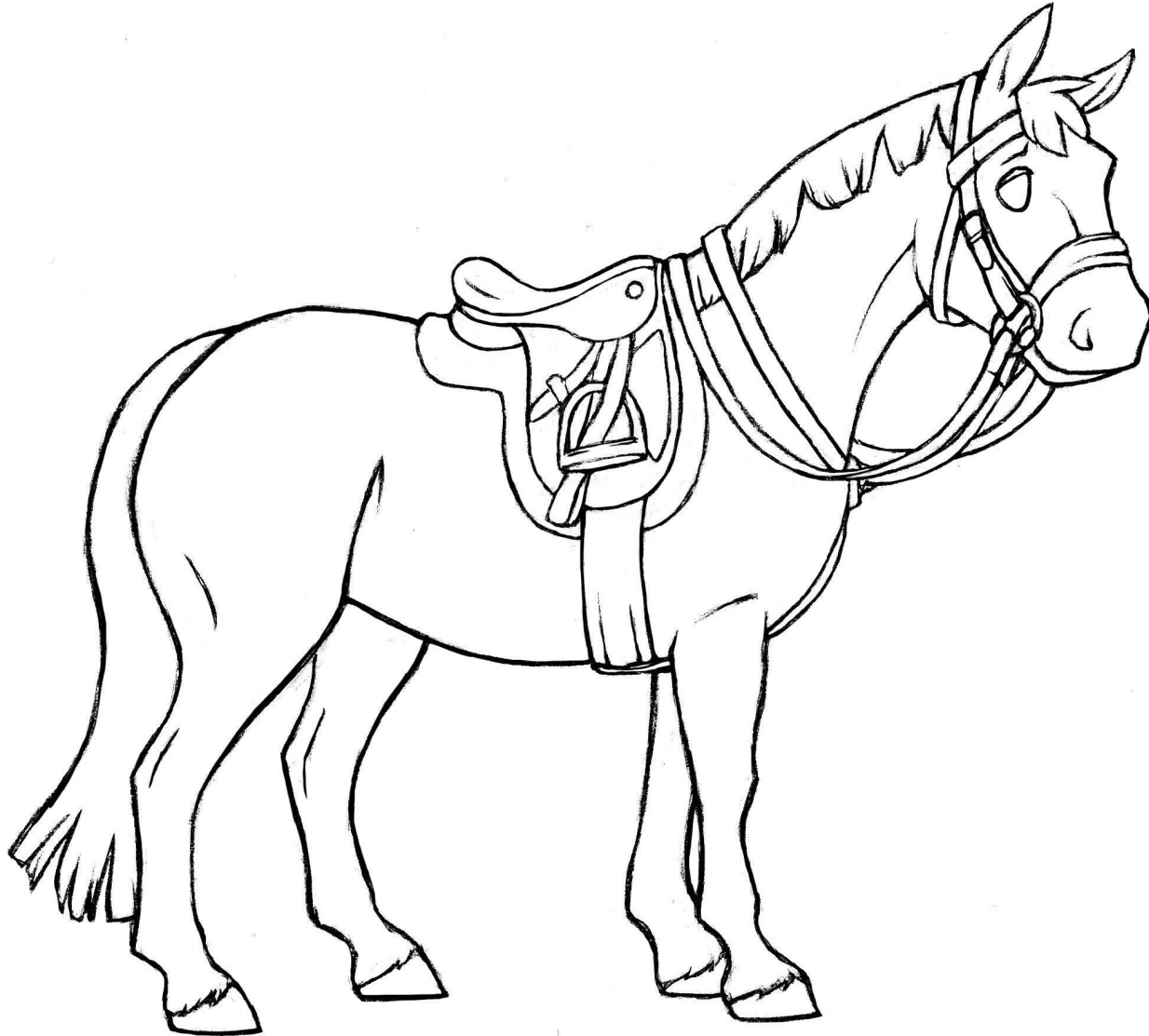
My friends and I worked hard to get our ponies and ourselves fit enough
for our first hunt!



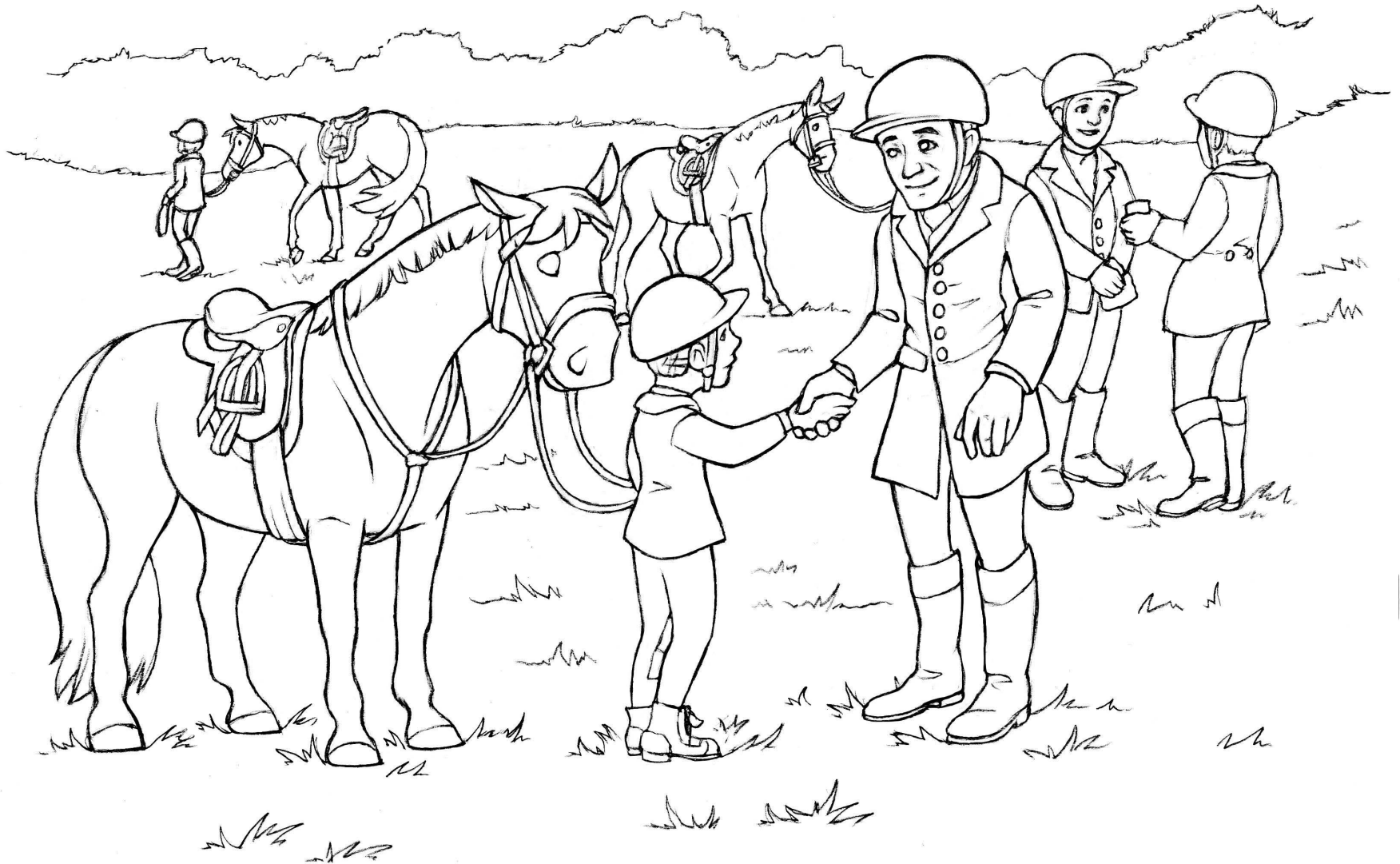
Getting ready to hunt also meant learning to tie and pin a stock tie and finding the proper clothes, either formal or ratcatcher.



After a few weeks of trot and canter sets, my pony and I were fit and we had our tack cleaned and ready.



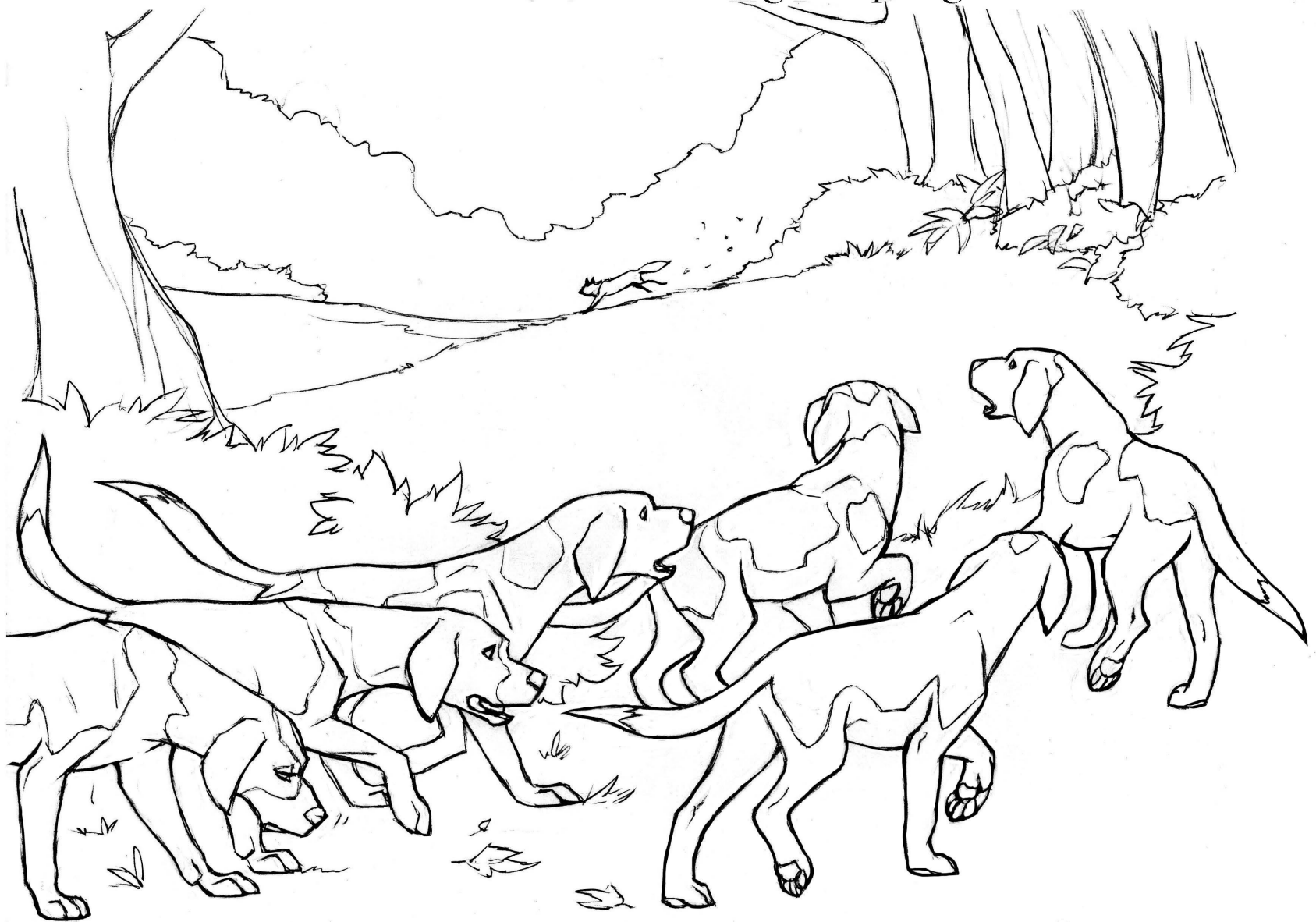
The day of the hunt, at last! I introduced myself to the Master of Foxhounds at the meet and thanked him for letting me hunt.



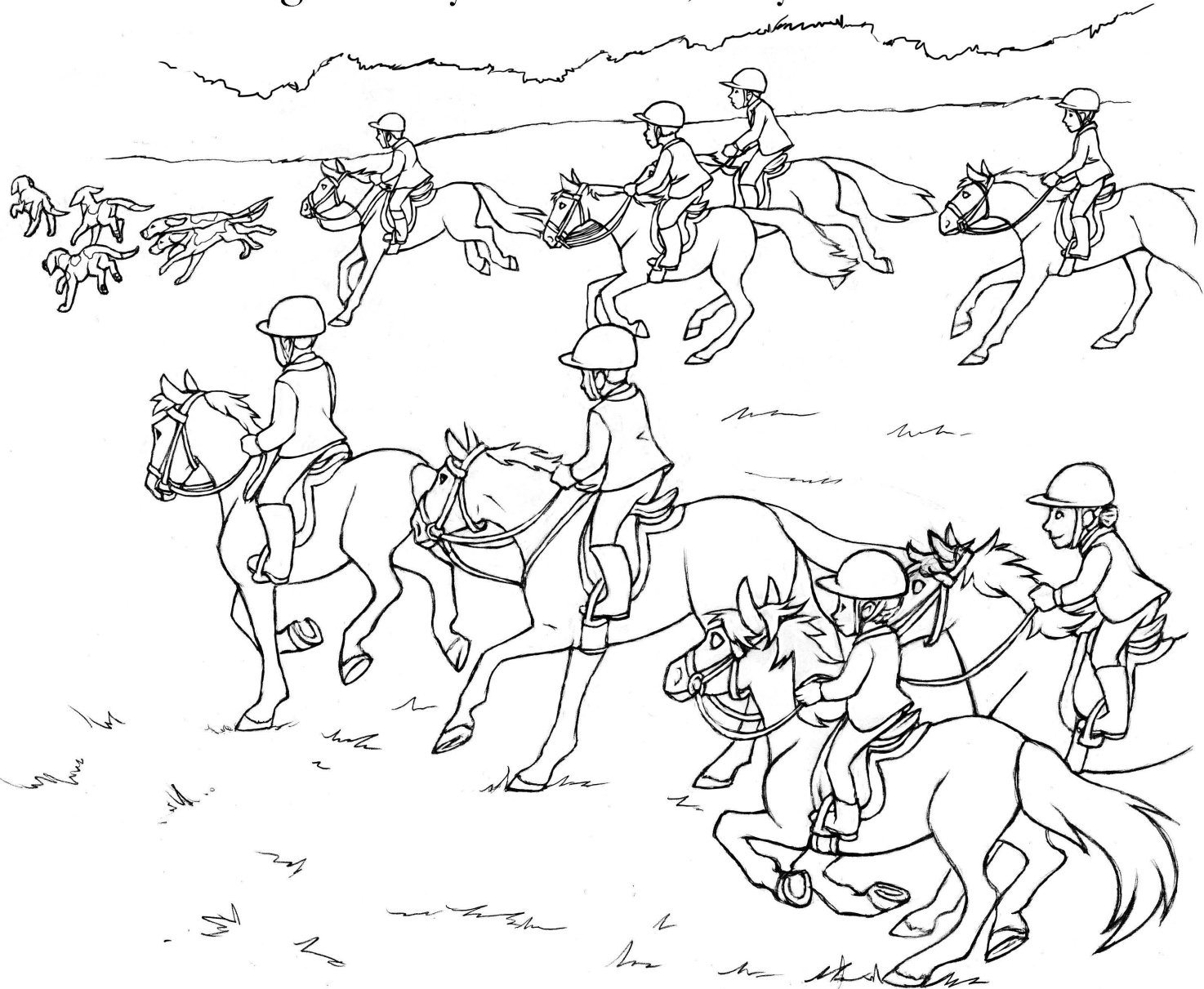
Once the hunt began, we watched quietly as the huntsman cast
the hounds into the covert.



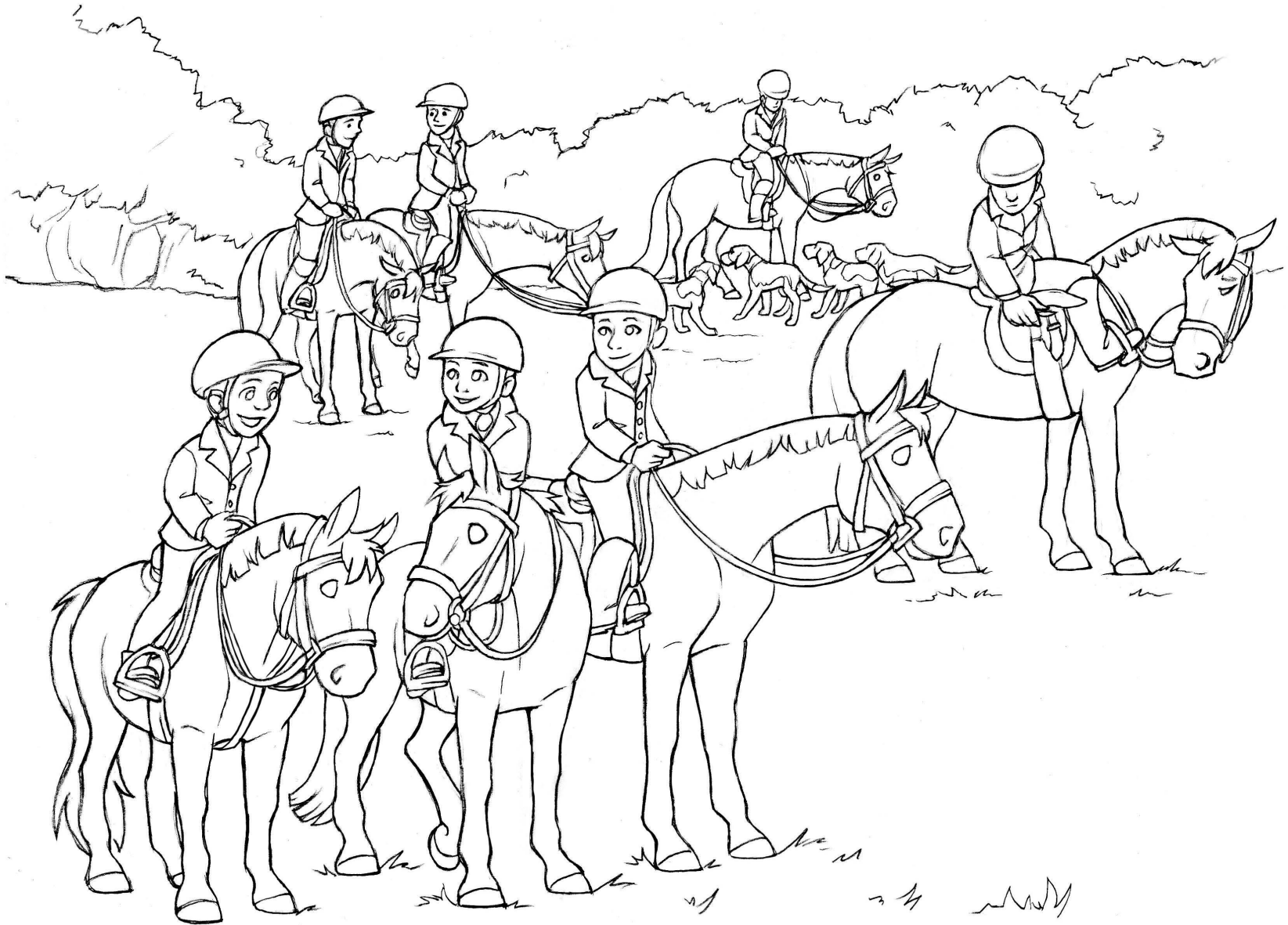
Off in the distance, we heard someone call “Tally Ho!” after the fox broke covert out of the woods, heading for open ground.



With the sounds of the hounds in full cry and the huntsman blowing
“gone away” on his horn, away we went!



After a good gallop, there was a check where hounds lost the scent, so that gave the horses time to catch their breath, we checked our girths and the fox increased his lead ahead of the hounds.



The hounds found the scent again and we were off for another gallop, and this time I jumped a coop!



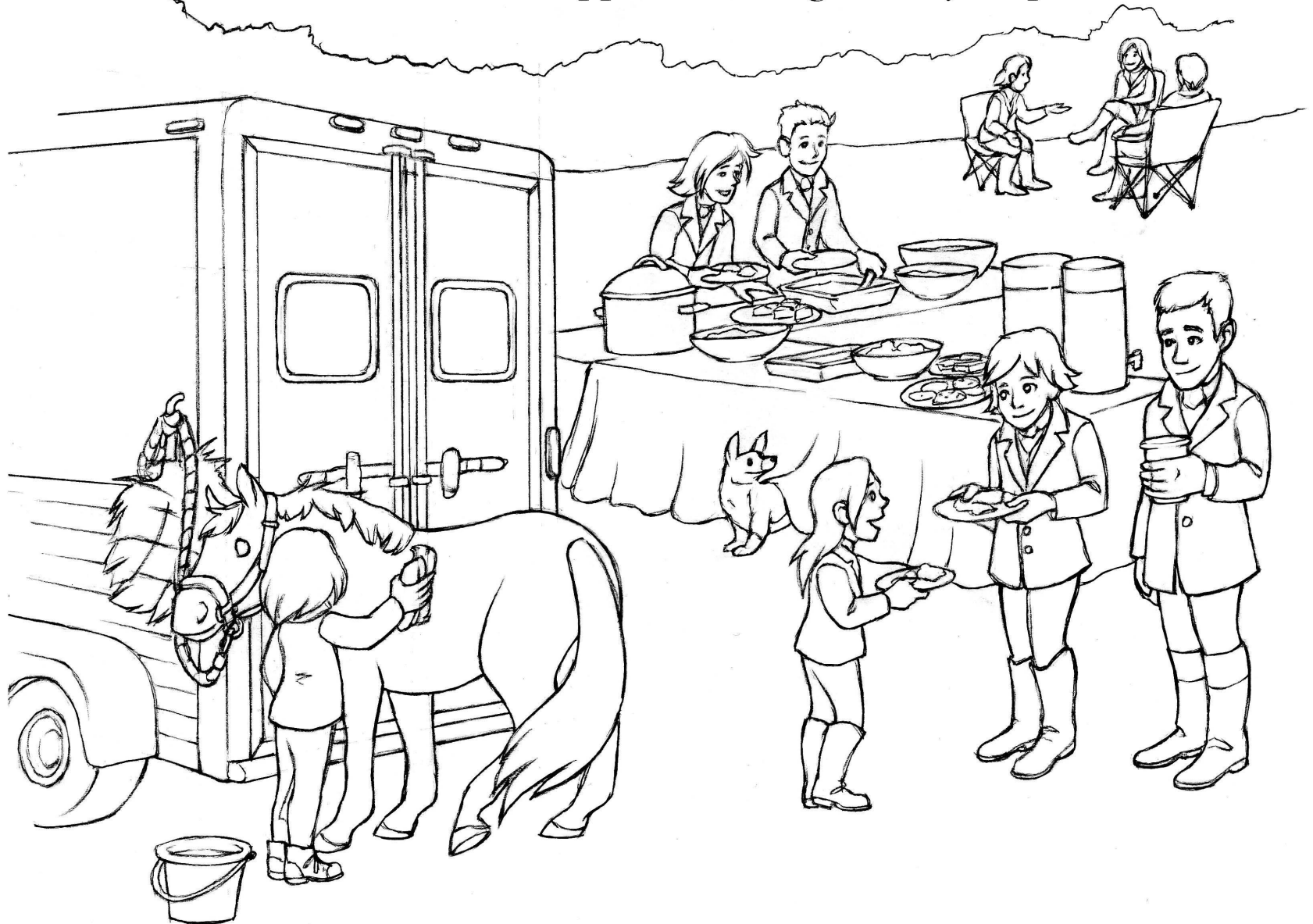
The fox found a hole, called an “earth” in foxhunting, and went to ground, safe
and sound to chase another day!



With the fox gone to ground, the huntsman blew a merry tune on his horn and let us dismount to congratulate the hounds on their good work.



After the hunt, we cleaned up our horses and joined the group for a delicious hunt “breakfast,” even though it was afternoon. We thanked the master, the huntsman and the whippers-in for a great day of sport!



Once we got home and put the horses back into the barn, all cleaned up after their big day, it was time to plan our next hunt – we can't wait to do it again!

