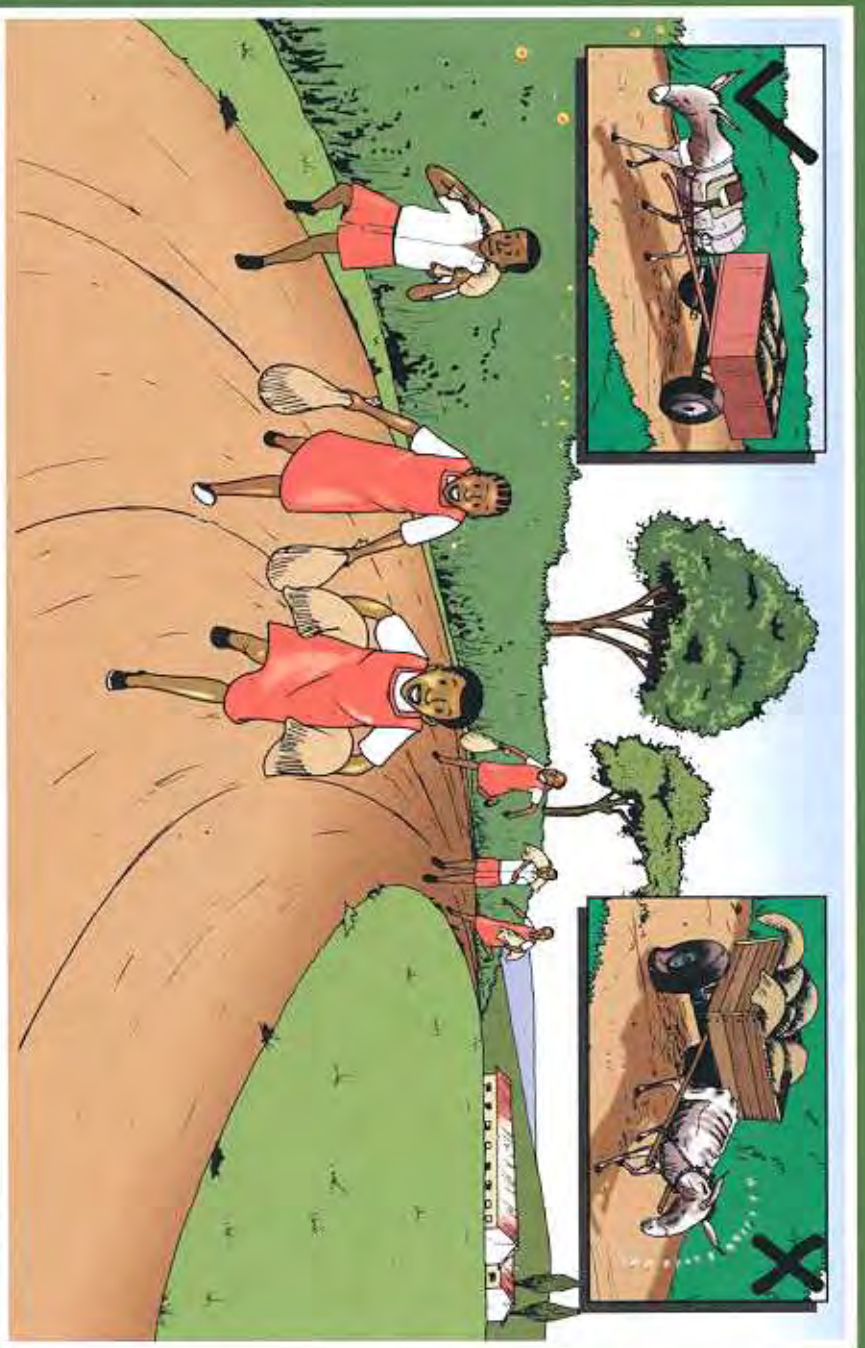


DONKEY WORK MADE EASY



Warmbui finds out...



DFID

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International
Development



What is wrong Elphas?

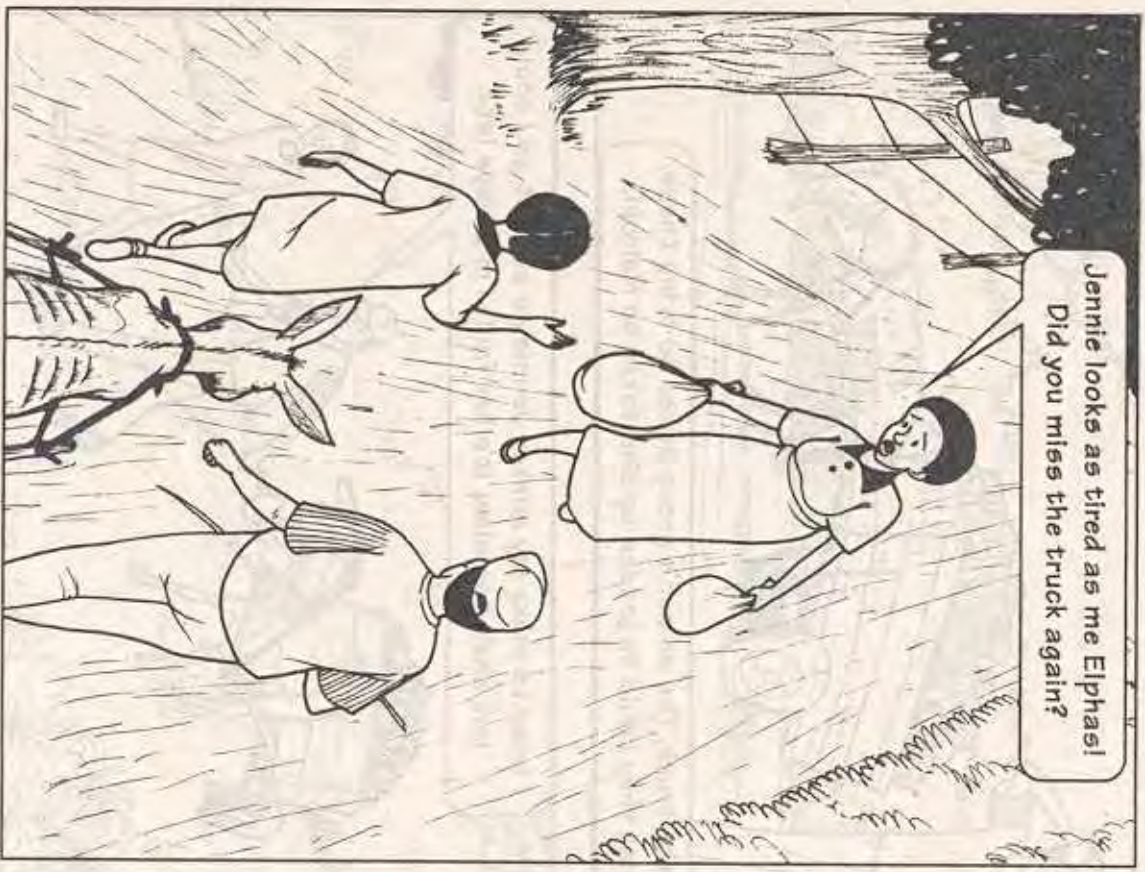
Oh, Wambui, I've just missed the truck. The women's group asked to bring these cabbages to the stage so that they could be loaded up and taken to Nairobi.



They are going to be very angry. It is the second time this month I have missed the truck.



I tried to make my donkey Jennie go as fast as I could but she's too slow. It's her fault I'm always late.



Jennie looks as tired as me Elphasi
Did you miss the truck again?

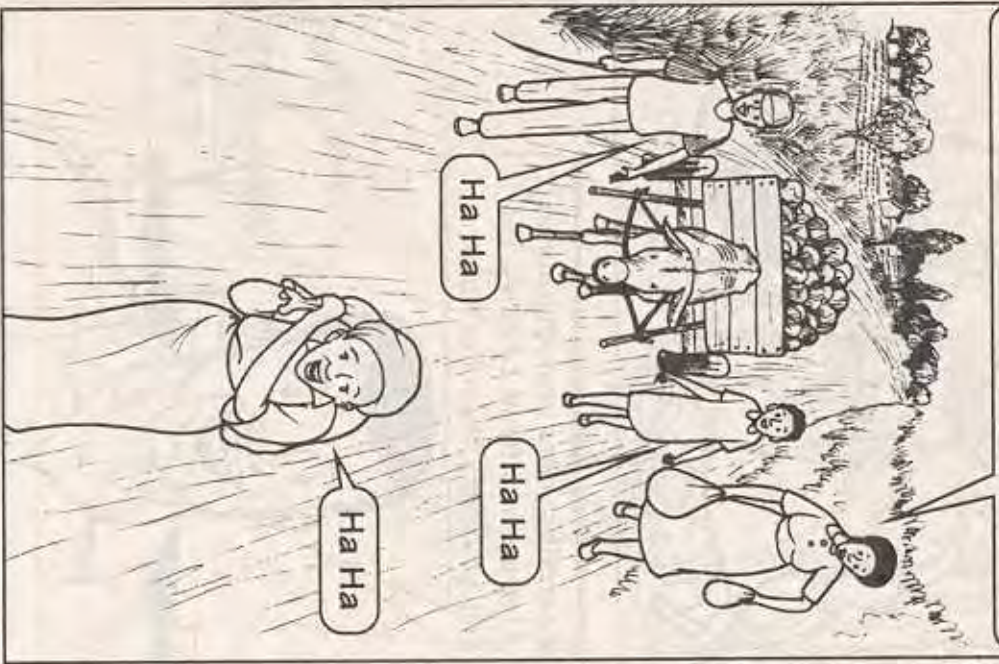


Yes, I'm afraid so. I am
going to be in trouble.



Look at Rose. She is smaller than me but
seems to carry her bags with such ease!

Rose, You move so quickly with those heavy bags I'm sure you could win a gold medal for Kenya in the next Olympic games.



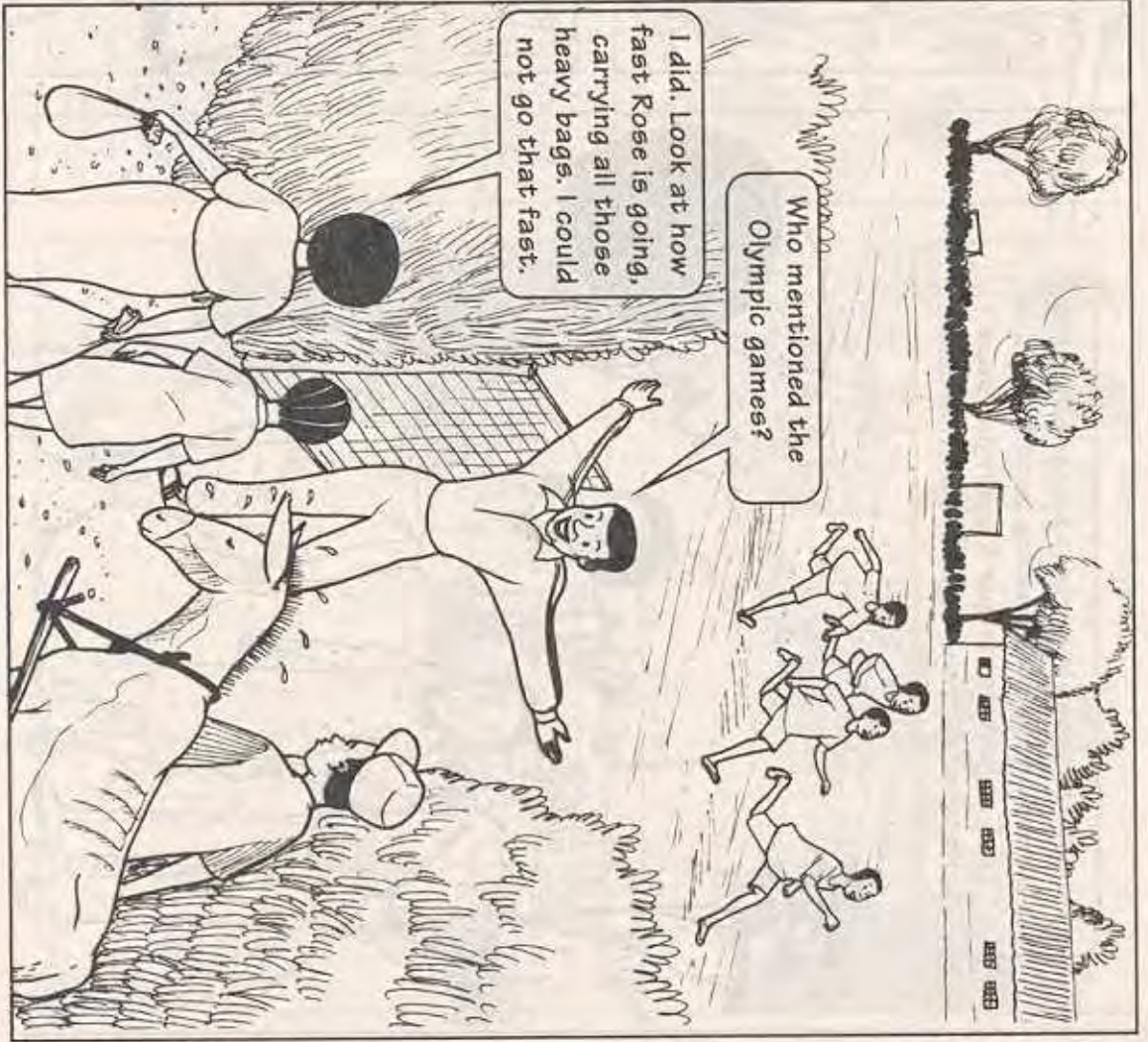
Ha Ha

Ha Ha

Ha Ha

Who mentioned the Olympic games?

I did. Look at how fast Rose is going, carrying all those heavy bags. I could not go that fast.



Mumbi, the most important thing that makes a champion athlete is having good technique. Look at your technique for carrying bags compared with the way Rose carries hers.



Rose's bags are evenly balanced on her back.



You are carrying yours unevenly, making them a lot more difficult to carry. Let us help you carry them like Rose.



Well, the bags are still heavy but now they feel more comfortable to carry. Thank you for your help.



Rose, Rose, wait. Let me catch you up.

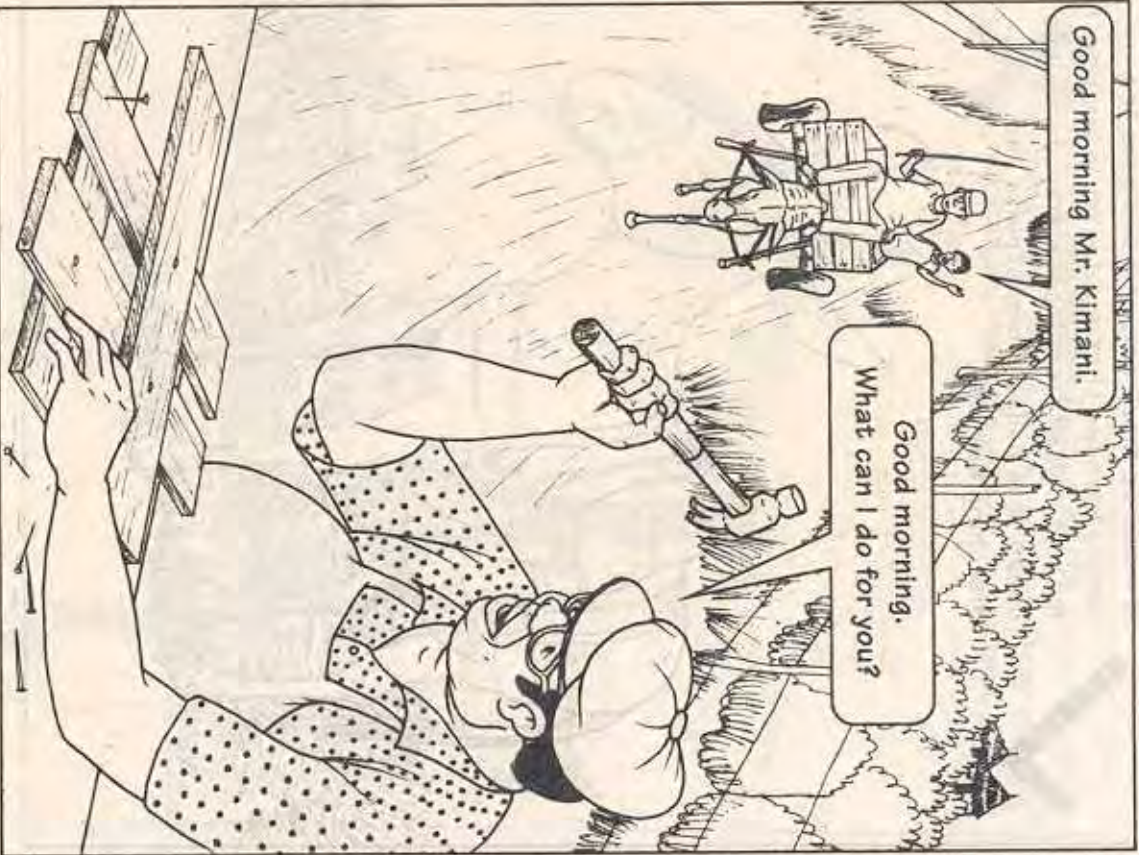


Well, Wambui, I suppose I must go and report back to the women's group. See you tomorrow.



Good morning Mr. Kimani.

Good morning.
What can I do for you?

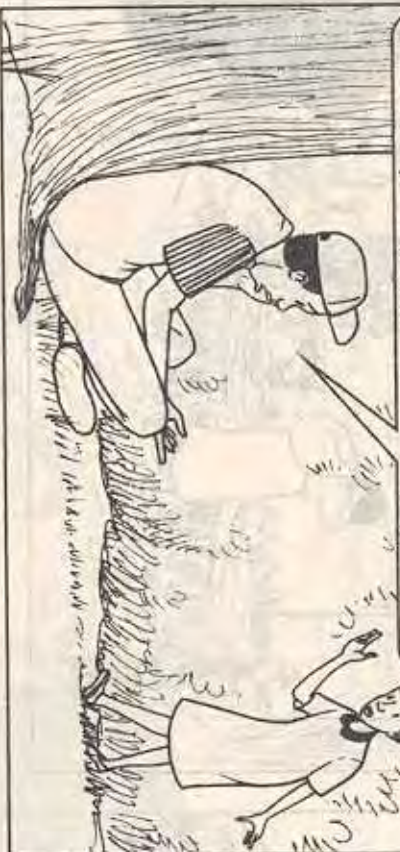


Jennie gets very tired when she pulls this cart. Even when she goes short distances, Mr. Kimani, what could be wrong?

Well Elphas, like people, donkeys cannot work hard for very long unless they feel comfortable. Let's have a look at Jennie and her cart to see if she is comfortable.



Good morning Wambui. It looks like I will no longer be getting any work from the women's group. They sacked me last night.



Why don't we go and see Mr. Kimani? He builds donkey carts so he might have ideas on how to improve Jennie's pulling technique.



Elphas, I was thinking about what the school master said yesterday about Mumbi's carrying technique.



Perhaps the reason why Jennie is slow is because she does not have a good pulling technique.

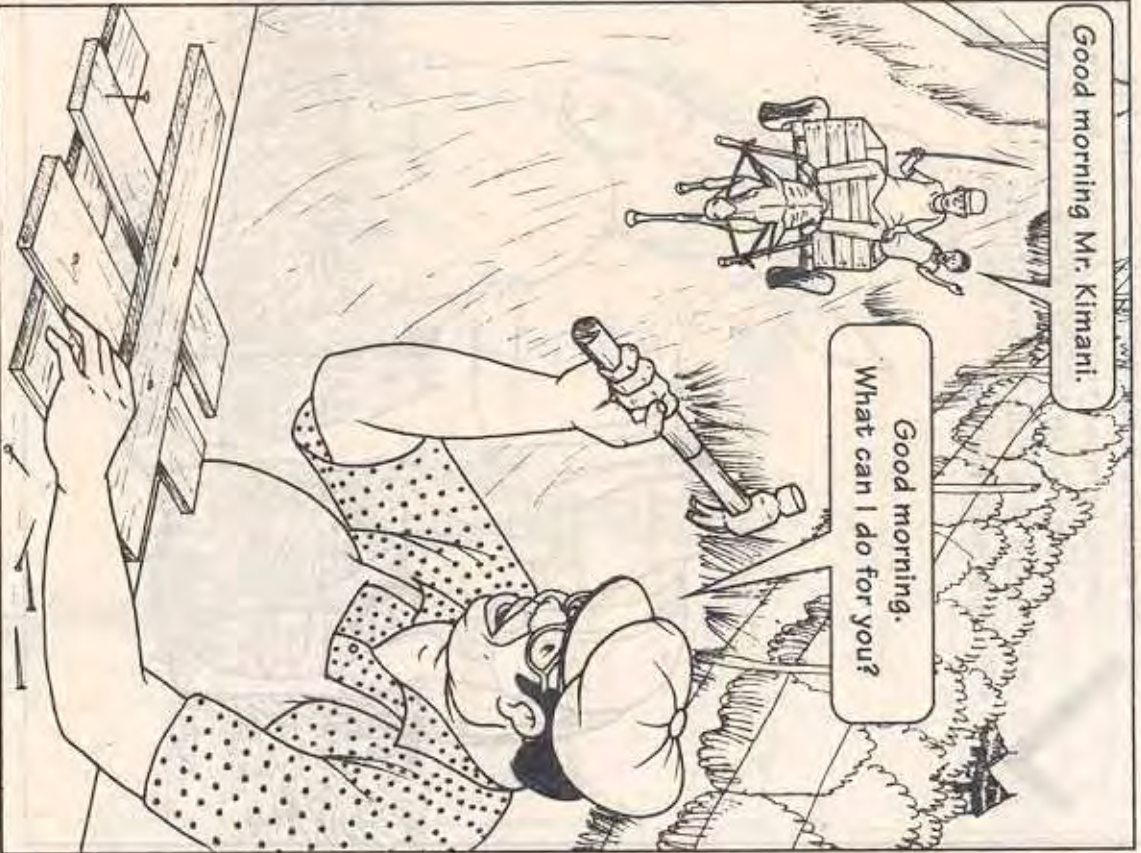
What do you mean, Wambui.

They ride off to Mr. Kimani's.



Good morning Mr. Kimani.

Good morning.
What can I do for you?



Jennie gets very tired when she pulls this cart. Even when she goes short distances, Mr. Kimani, what could be wrong?

Well Elphas, like people, donkeys cannot work hard for very long unless they feel comfortable. Let's have a look at Jennie and her cart to see if she is comfortable.





Jennie is very uncomfortable with this noose around her neck.

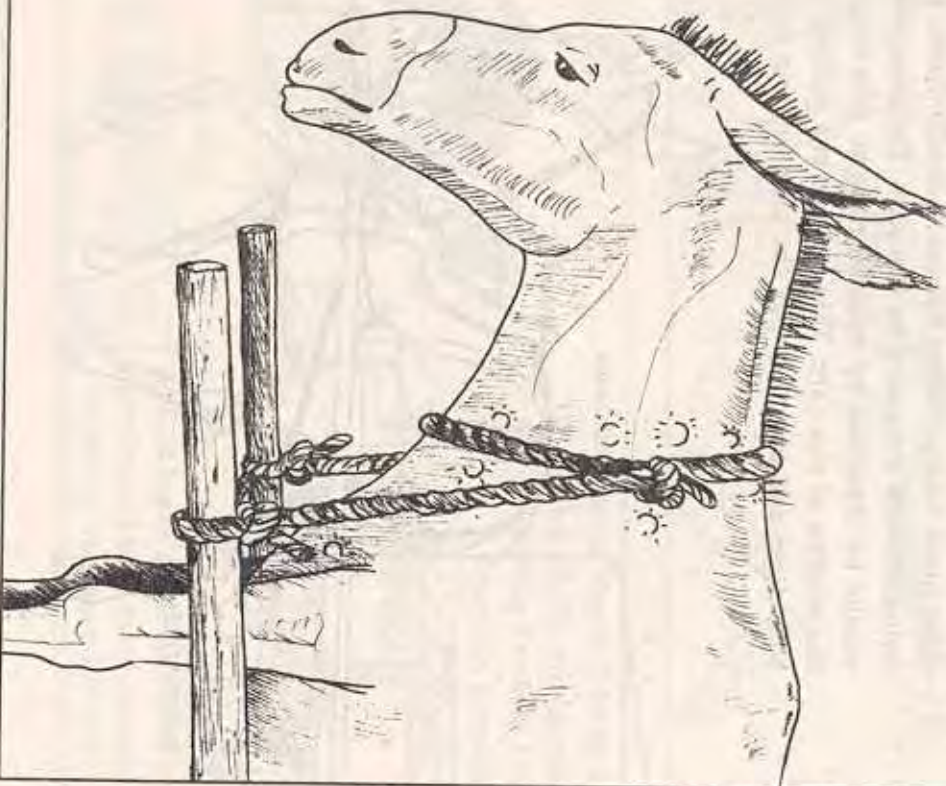


It would be much better if she wore the simple harness that my donkey is wearing. I made it myself from local materials so it is cheap. It is called a breastplate and breeching harness.

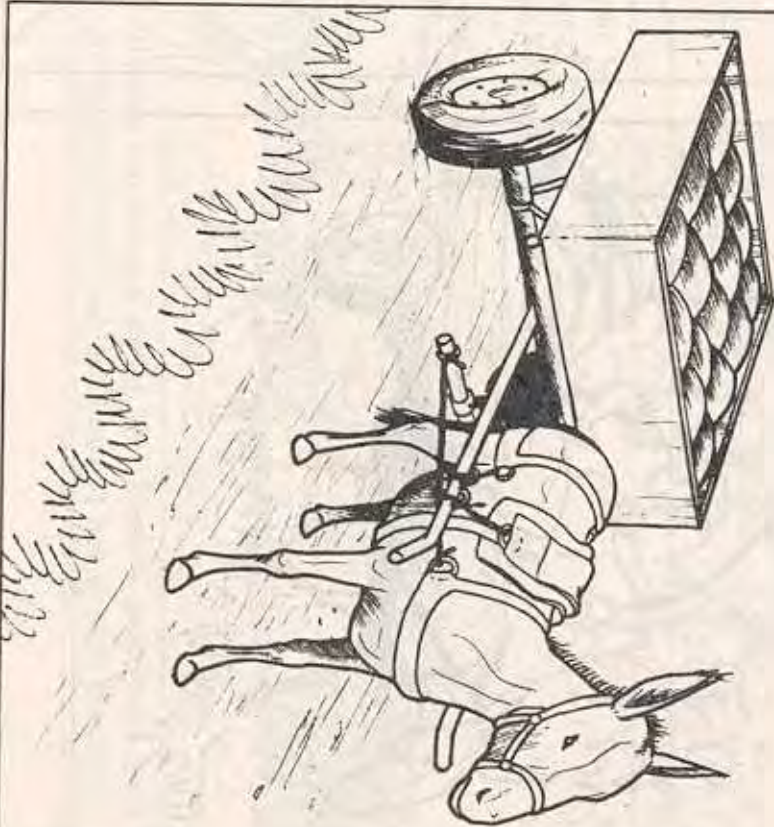




The problem here is that all the weight of the cart rests on the noose. Look at these sores around her neck! No wonder she cannot pull very fast.



With my harness and with a well balanced load on the cart, Jennie would go much faster because she is comfortable.

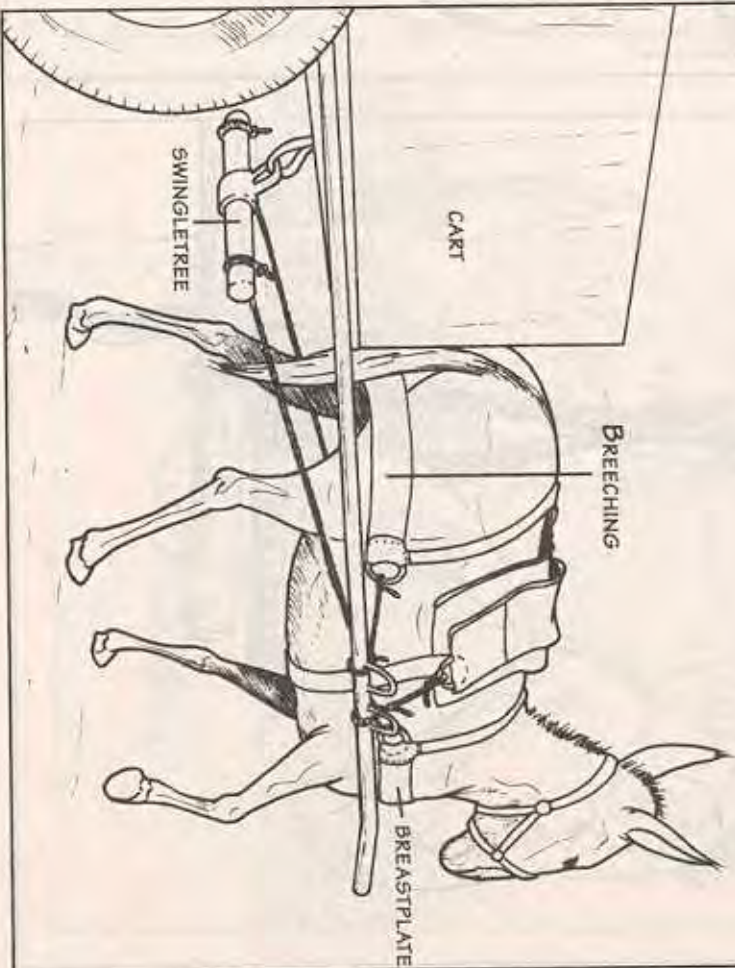




Because the noose is firmly fixed to the cart it cannot move along with Jennie's movements. So the noose rubs her and this also causes sores.



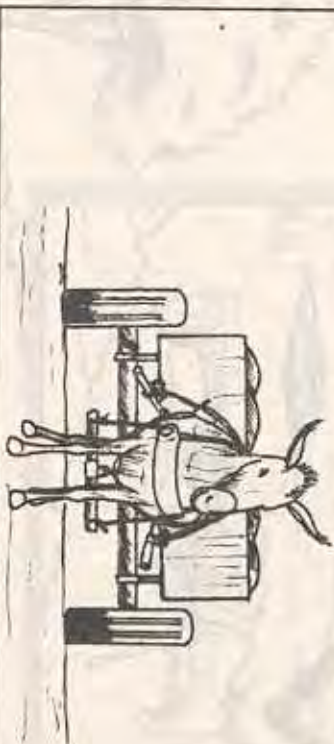
Look at my breastplate and breeching harness. The breastplate, which is the front part of the harness is attached by rope to this bar called a swingletree. The swingletree allows the donkey to move more freely making her more comfortable. The swingletree is attached to the cart. The breeching should be attached by another rope to this ring on the shafts of the cart. This causes the donkey to slow down and stop without the cart running into it.



When you make a backpack for Jennie make sure it has a good gap down the middle. This will stop her getting a sore back.



Make sure that the backpack is covered in a natural fibre like canvas, cotton, hessian, wool or jute. Make sure the weight of the cart is spread evenly on each side of the backpack.

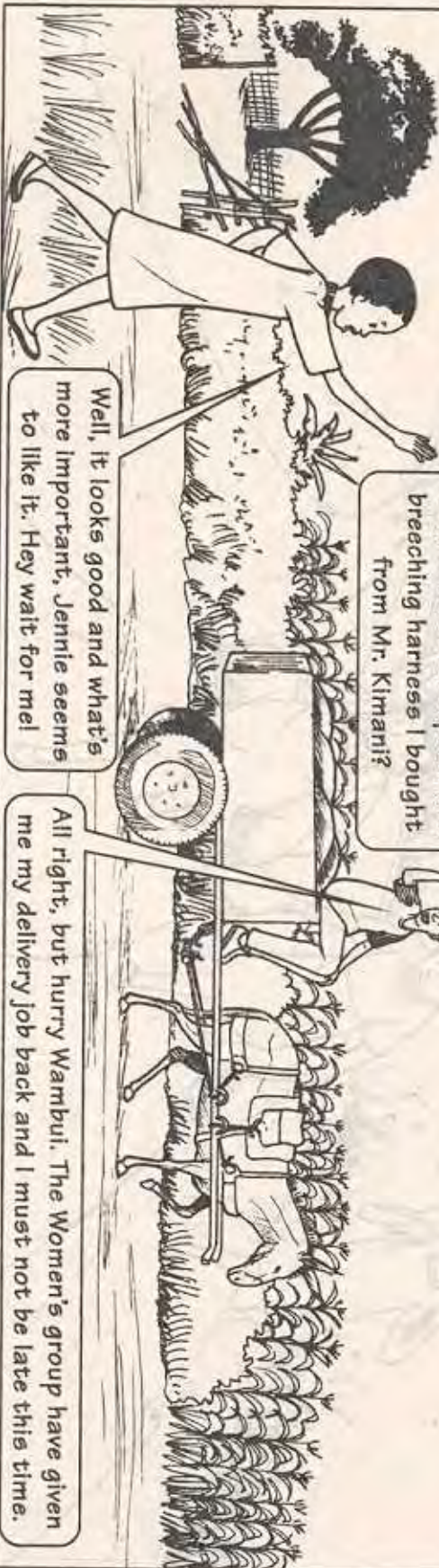


A month later

Hello Wambui, what do you think of the breastplate and breeching harness I bought from Mr. Kimani?

Well, it looks good and what's more important, Jennie seems to like it. Hey wait for me!

All right, but hurry Wambui. The Women's group have given me my delivery job back and I must not be late this time.



Next time you have a sports lesson try a race where some of you carry unbalanced loads and others carry balanced loads. See who moves fastest and who gets tired first.



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For information on equine harnessing: International League for the Protection of Horses (ILPH).

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