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Pet Rescue Saga

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From the creators of the well-known Candy Crush Saga and Farm Heroes Saga comes this similar puzzle game built on the plot of rescuing captured pets. Each level shows a variety of colored blocks with different animals in different places. The goal of the game is to tap on groups of blocks to remove them, thus rescuing the pets by bringing them down to the bottom of the puzzle. A variety of “boosters” also become available throughout the game which help achieve these purposes—like a rocket that will remove all blocks in a vertical line, or a hammer that will eliminate a block of your choosing. Dozens of levels appear in each of four maps, with levels becoming increasingly more difficult as they go on. Levels are passed by rescuing a required number of pets and reaching a certain score. You are also rated with a number of stars depending on the efficiency of the solution; failure results in losing a life.

For those unfamiliar with this type of game, a tutorial at the very beginning does a wonderful job of simply explaining the objective and also the tools that can help achieve it. The animals have been drawn to be rather adorable, and with a fun and colorful layout, interesting music and sound effects, and overall simple but challenging goal, this game very appealing to children (and many adults as well). Also, the progression from easy to hard and the process of obtaining and using boosters give the game variety and encourage its users to continue playing. Parents need to be watchful, however, because the game constantly encourages in-app purchases (to buy lives, boosters, etc.) with little need of verification to make the purchases. The game also has a social element that encourages players to connect with friends over Facebook—anther element that parents of younger children ought to monitor. Compared to the other puzzle sagas out there, this one isn’t particularly special, but if your child enjoys pets and problem-solving they would likely enjoy this app.

*In-App purchases are available.