

MY LITTLE PONY
Season 7

Fluttershy Leans In
Ep 705

Premise by: Gillian Berrow

Distribution:

Production:
Devon Cody
Joanna Lewis
Kristine Songco
Jim Miller
Denny Lu
Tim Stuby
Zoe Borroz

Discovery Family:
Linda Shima Tsuno
Beth Mohammed

Hasbro Studios:
Stephen Davis
Kathy Page
Meghan McCarthy
Eliza Hart
Gabriel Monje
Daniel Barnes
Finn Arnesen
Nina Scales
Graham Stephen
Jade Watson
Tyla Bucher
Loretta Masters
Narae Song
Bill Cheungcp
Molly Shaffer
Emily Thompson
Rachelle Little

Hasbro Brand:
Jamie Cipolla
Yusun Hwang
Kevin Evans
Andrea Ehret
Marissa Mansolillo
Samantha Lomow
Gretchen Forrest
Kristen Riley
Katherine Padilla
Brian Chapman

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FLUTTERSHY LEANS IN

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Friendship lesson: Fluttershy learns that in order to be a good leader; she must believe she deserves her position and be confident in her instincts.

We open on Fluttershy's tiny cottage overrun with sick or wounded animals. Fluttershy moves amongst them with skill and precision, tending to their needs, but the lack of space is a problem. When Applejack comes to visit, Fluttershy puts a raccoon on her back, bandages his leg and tells Applejack she has no idea where to put the poor little guy. Maybe Applejack could just hold him for the next, say, four to six weeks while he heals? Applejack says clearly word has spread that Fluttershy is the go-to pony for animals in need. Fluttershy knows. She really needs more space. She tells Applejack it's always been her dream to be in charge of an animal sanctuary. Fortunately she has friends who have friends who can help her realize her dream!

Fluttershy goes to her friends, who help her bring in a team of experts. Twilight calls in Pa McColt, known for his expert building skills, to design a structure. Rarity calls in her pal, the Furniture Store salespony, to create custom beds for the animals. And Rainbow Dash calls in the Doctor and Nurse Redheart to advise on medical building matters. At first, Fluttershy is so grateful for the help on this daunting project. But when the experts tell her what they think is best for the project, she disagrees. Applejack encourages her to go with her gut. *She* is the one who knows about the animals, after all! But Fluttershy ends up deferring to the "expert" opinion on any matter from the size of the beds to the height of the doors. Finally, when the hospital is complete—it's a disaster! The giraffe won't fit through the doorway and the beds made to fit baby bears are far too large for ferrets, etc.

Fluttershy finally admits to her friends that she went along with the ideas of the others because she assumed they knew more than her. Applejack helps her realize that if she wants to be in charge of running a sanctuary, she has to believe in her own ideas. Without her own expertise and input, the intended purpose of the project has been lost. Fluttershy *does* deserve to be in charge—no pony knows how to care for critters like she does! Pa McColt, Furniture Pony, and the Doctor all work to repurpose the materials from the existing hospital and execute Fluttershy's true vision—an outdoor animal sanctuary that can accommodate animals big and small. Its tree beds, burrows, nests and caves can make any animal feel at home while they recover. It's perfect!