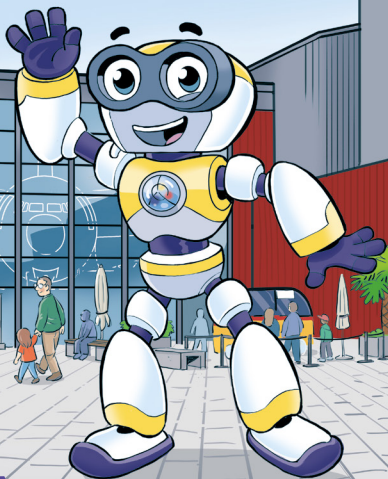


VeRo's travel

A trip in a rescue
helicopter

verkehrshaus

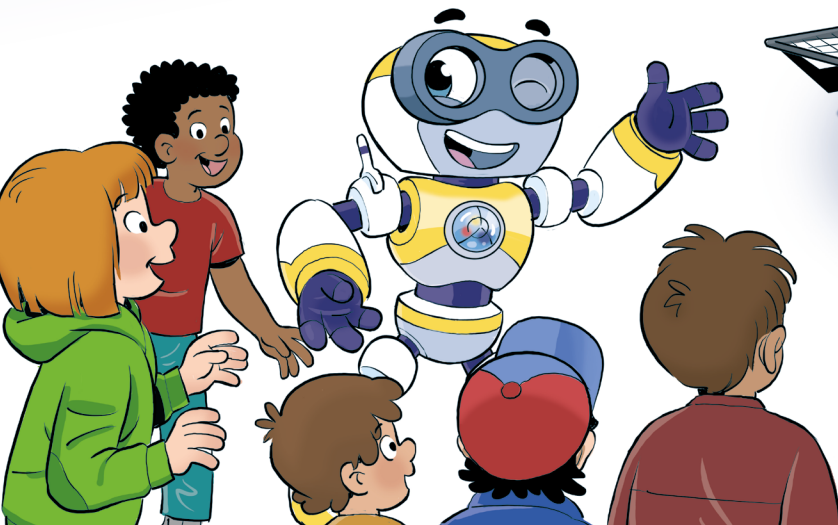


With lots
of exciting facts!

VeRo
kids
club

VeRo can hardly wait. Today isn't just any day: today is VeRo's birthday. And, of course, his party's going to be held at the Swiss Museum of Transport. VeRo has spent weeks getting everything ready – sending out invitations, planning games, choosing his favourite cake and organising a huge surprise.

Once all the guests have arrived at the Swiss Museum of Transport, they first head over to the "Eureca" satellite. The children are amazed: "Wow – it's massive! And this satellite has actually been in space." VeRo grins mysteriously. "That was just the beginning," he says, waving the birthday group on. "The real highlight is here!" He leads the children into the exhibition on the Rega air rescue service. There's a real Rega helicopter – and even an ambulance jet outside.



"Tadaaa!" shouts VeRo proudly. "I've organised a tour with a Rega helicopter mechanic." The children's eyes are as wide as saucers. A man with a beaming smile approaches them.



VeRo's fascinating facts

The Rega jet has been on display at the Swiss Museum of Transport since April 2019.

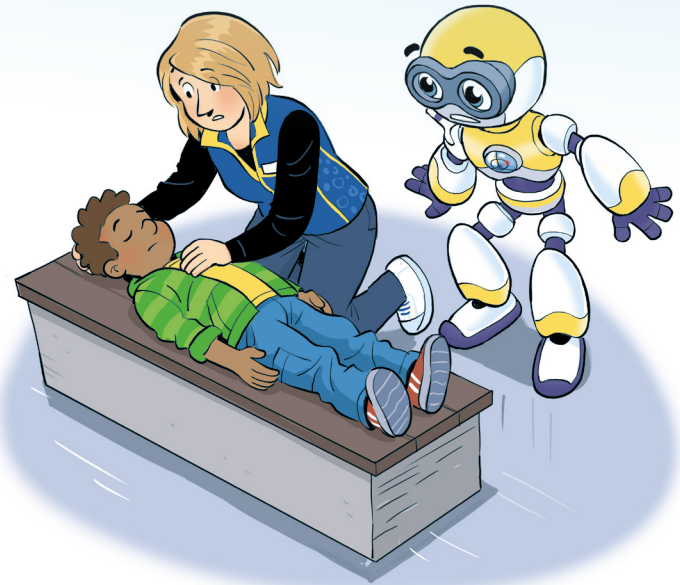
"Hi everyone. I'm Beat," he says. "Today, I'll tell you everything you need to know about Rega helicopters." The children clap with joy. While they stand right next to the rescue helicopter, Beat explains to them how a helicopter is able to fly and how the pilot manages to keep it completely still in the air. Then they move on to the ambulance jet, which can transport up to four patients while they are being looked after. The Rega jet usually has four crew members on board.



Suddenly, everything goes quiet: VeRo's best friend Leon has collapsed onto a bench. He's holding his stomach, his face is pale and he's sweating.

"Leon, what's wrong?" VeRo asks anxiously. But Leon doesn't answer. He sways – and flops over to one side.

For a moment, everyone holds their breath. Then chaos breaks out. An employee from the Swiss Museum of Transport immediately kneels down by Leon's side. She speaks to him and checks his breathing. "His eyes are closed and he's breathing, but he needs help urgently," she says, a serious note in her voice. Beat, the Rega helicopter mechanic, fetches an emergency bag from the first-aid room.



"I'm calling the emergency services!" shouts VeRo, runs off and stops in front of the Rega helicopter as if rooted to the spot. "We can fly him to hospital," thinks VeRo. He pulls at the door and – would you believe it – it opens. VeRo climbs in and sees the knobs, levers and switches everywhere. "Where's the start button?" he murmurs. He presses several things, but nothing happens.

"VeRo!" shouts Beat from outside. "You can't do that! The helicopter is part of the exhibition: it's no longer able to fly. And the jet over there is just for looking at, it's bolted down." VeRo steps out again. "Drat!" he shouts. "What should we do now?"

Beat puts a reassuring hand on VeRo's shoulder. "The most important thing now is that Leon gets help as quickly as possible. Call 1414, which is Rega's emergency number. The Operations Center will summon the nearest rescue team." Trembling, VeRo takes out his phone and types 1 – 4 – 1 – 4. Immediately, he hears a friendly voice: "Rega Operations Center, hello." VeRo swallows and explains what has happened.

The flight coordinator asks a few questions: "Is your friend awake? Is he breathing? Does he have any allergies?" VeRo's eyes open wide. "He's allergic to bees and I think he was stung just before this happened. But he doesn't have his EpiPen with him today." The woman on the phone responds: "A Rega helicopter is already on its way to you. It will arrive in a few minutes." Until the rescuers arrive, she calmly and clearly explains to him what he can do to help Leon in the meantime.



VeRo's fascinating facts



How the Rega jet was delivered



All the children hold their breath. Suddenly, they hear it: a soft hum that's getting louder and louder. And then the red and white Rega helicopter starts circling above the Swiss Museum of Transport. Beat shouts: "Come on, VeRo, you can help me guide the helicopter so the pilot knows where to land." Beat hands VeRo a yellow hi-vis vest so that he is clearly visible to the helicopter pilot. VeRo has to kneel down with one knee on the ground and extend both of his arms into the air to form a Y (Y = yes: we need help, here we are). When landing, the rotor blades stir up the dust. This downward wind, known as "downwash", is so strong that VeRo feels like he could be blown away at any moment. "Hold on to your hats!" shouts Beat. After the helicopter has landed, a paramedic and an emergency flight physician disembark. They quickly go to Leon and kneel down next to him, inject him with medication and carefully place him on a stretcher. In the meantime, the pilot prepares the helicopter for take-off.

"He'll be fine," says the paramedic reassuringly. "We'll take him to hospital, where he'll get everything he needs."



A few days later, VeRo's friends meet again at the Swiss Museum of Transport. Leon is there as well. He has made a full recovery. VeRo has also invited the Rega helicopter crew and helicopter mechanic Beat to talk about the incident at the birthday party once again. Beat grins proudly. "You all did a great job," he says. "How are you feeling, Leon, and how was the flight in the helicopter?" Leon beams and answers: "Luckily, I'm feeling great again. The rescue workers took good care of me. It was very noisy in the helicopter, but still somehow reassuring. The emergency flight physician took good care of me and kept talking to me, while the paramedic used the radio to talk to the Operations Center. When we landed at the hospital, the doctors were already prepared and took me to the emergency ward, where they gave me an IV. The next day, I was allowed to go home."

“May I ask you something?” VeRo turns to the emergency flight physician. “Why is there a plane in the Rega exhibition? I thought you only used helicopters?”

The emergency flight physician laughs. “Good question, VeRo. Lots of people think that, but Rega also has ambulance jets. We use them when someone needs medical help abroad. In these cases, Rega flies the patients home to Switzerland – even from faraway countries.”

“Wow,” says VeRo in amazement. “That means you really are flying doctors.”

“Exactly,” laughs the emergency flight physician. “And on your birthday, you were all a great help down here on the ground: none of this would have gone so well if you hadn’t sounded the alarm so swiftly.” “I’ll never forget such an exciting birthday,” says VeRo. “But in future, the helicopter here in the Swiss Museum of Transport will be enough for me.”



VeRo's top tip

Where can I experience a helicopter's “downwash”? In the Rega exhibition at the Swiss Museum of Transport





VeRo's fascinating facts

How far can the Rega jet fly without refuelling?

6,500 kilometres

Average number of Rega missions per year?

Every year, Rega organises an average of more than 14,000 missions.

How high can a helicopter fly?

Up to 5,000 metres above sea level



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