The Wolf, the Goat, and the Cabbage

A rural man wishes (for reasons that are not normally disclosed) to take a wolf, a goat and a cabbage across a broad river in a rowboat. The boat is very small, unfortunately, and the poor man has room in the boat for only one of these organisms at a time. What's worse, he cannot leave the wolf and the goat on the same bank, whether coming or going, for the wolf will surely eat the goat. Nor can he leave the goat and cabbage on the same bank because the goat will eat the cabbage. Is the feat even possible? If so, how does the man manage it?

Scroll down for answer
Solution to the “Wolf, Goat and Cabbage” puzzle

1. He takes the goat across the river, from bank A to bank B, leaving the wolf and the cabbage at A.

2. He returns empty to pick up the cabbage from A and takes it to B, where he leaves it and picks up the goat.

3. He takes the goat back to A, where he drops it and picks up the wolf.

4. He ferries the wolf over to B and leaves it there with the cabbage.

5. He returns to A for the goat and crosses the river one last time before continuing his journey.