



Lucy's Story for International Womens Day and Golloms Birthday

I am now an employee at Dad in Paws, I met Gary and Ashley at Lee Valley Park on a dog walk in the summer of 2017, we got talking and felt I needed to join their team as they both shared the same love I felt for dogs. I shared my story of how I came to adopt Gollom my Indian Dog, who soon came to live in the UK.

On 8 March 2018 we are to celebrate his birthday and International Women's day by recognising Dipti, Golloms India mother.

Here is Lucy's story:

I travelled to India to study yoga and I found it on the streets of Pune, Maharashtra. Whilst waiting for my lift to work I saw what seemed to be a tiny pink pig running through the carnage streets of where I was staying. Some cars were trying to avoid it, some were trying to hit it. Then I realised it was a tiny bald dog. Over-heated, malnourished, and alone.

I had to run and pick it up. This was the beginning of me knowing of Dipti. I asked friends for help and her name was top of the list, and she was the only one who could take in a mangey stray puppy.

I went and visited Dipti's home and heard other dogs and squeals of puppies. Dipti had turned her home into a welfare shelter for dogs. There were mothers, injured ones, even her own 5 dogs. It was stunning.

Then her daughters ventured out to meet me. Living on an army base it was unusual to see a white woman with a dog! But we immediately got to know each other and we sang and played together. Dipti made the best coffee!

I had no place for this puppy I had just found and needed a space to keep him whilst he got well. His home was a cage in the garage, trust me this was luxury for him!

I named him Gollom. He looked like the creature from LOTR. His eyes were amazing.

Dipti allowed me to come to her home when I wanted just to sit with my new found friend Gollom. She bathed him daily, when I couldn't due to work. Dipti managed to care for what seemed to be a relentless conveyor of hurt or stray dogs in need.

The more we spoke the more I realised her and her daughters had dedicated their lives to helping dogs in India, by cooking for them, feeding them on the streets, providing medication, and even transporting them to vets. Her back room was the dogs sanctuary.

Dipti and I would bring calm to poorly dogs with voices, lotions, games. And I only had a glimpse of what she had seen.

We had a vet called Dr Anushka Lobo who gave free vaccinations to Gollom and other dogs. It was us three who gave Gollom the birthday on international women's day. I had a joyful time realising he would survive and between us we had managed to keep him safe. He was just two months old when I found him!

The reason I would like to raise and send money to Dipti is not only does she tirelessly work for dogs. She saved Gollom and not once but twice. I had to leave India and leave Gollom there and Dipti and her daughter kept him for me to get healthy enough for me to adopt him and for his safe travels 1000's of miles across the globe to the UK.

Dipti had 5 dogs and Gollom to care for. She did not ask for a single penny from me. Despite having to take him for his jabs (trust me that a simple journey doesn't happen on the roads in India).

Dipti ensured his safety from November 2016 until July 2017 when he was finally allowed to the UK. Gollom didn't need to go into quarantine as we had done everything so smoothly.

Looking back I understand we just got our heads down and did it for the love of Gollom. He couldn't stay in India, I couldn't yet return and I wanted him with me.

I send Dipti regular photo updates and she sends me some of her. After Gollom left all she could say was she missed him and began to tick off her bucket list. Seems the whole journey had an impact on her, her family, the dogs, the surrounding carers could also not believe an English woman would go through so much for a stray Indian dog.

She tells me it changed her community. But what I need her to know is how she changed me. For she is Mother Nature herself, embodied. And she is not the only one. The women she volunteers with care for all life. They nursed me when I was sick



The money raised will go to Dipti and her two daughters. I Imagine she will give it to her dogs and other women who never ask for a thing.

Any amount will be amazing for them and a light in what is a sometimes desperate situation.

Don't get me wrong Dipti is not sad nor is she weak. She is the epitome of fortitude and trust.

I found yoga - love - compassion on my trip and I realise how blessed we are to have the chance to live alongside dogs. From one community to another. Please

give freely what you can.

With love. Lucy & Gollom

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/dadinpawsdip>

