

My Journey Through Fear to Safety

By Aroush Abid

Highly Commended in the Under 11 Age category

The scary dog prowled around in the neighbour garden. I saw the dog move its head and bare its teeth. I stared at it for a while, then the dog disappeared into the bushes and came out to the other side, standing right next to me.

I crowed for help as the dog started chasing me. It was just moments behind me, thrashing and baring its teeth. If it sped up, I would become dog food. I started to sprint at full speed. I dashed to the garden door to see if anyone would be there to help, but no one was. I was desperate to get out of the situation, so I jumped up onto the trampoline. I was safe for about two seconds until the dog followed me. I quickly jumped off the trampoline onto the grass. I was fractions of a second too slow. I felt pain in my back. The dog had bitten me. Thankfully, a minute later, the next-door neighbours came and took the dog away before it hurt me anymore.

After that drama, I sat down to rest and recover. I glanced around for my friend. But as far as the eye could see, was feathers. Then, from a mountain of feathers, my friend emerged. She came to comfort me and soon I fell asleep. Even though I was shivering and my whole body was aching, I was grateful when our owners, Molly and Sophie, came. When they saw me, they gasped in shock. I had lost many feathers and could barely walk.

They rushed to give me food and water so I would gain my strength back. They showered me with love, care and attention before I went to sleep.

To say sorry the neighbours gave us some beautiful flowers and made a vet appointment for me the day after.

The next morning, I was carefully put in my travel cage so we could go to the veterinary clinic. We waited for what felt like forever until finally the vet came. He examined me and told me that I was lucky that I wasn't harmed badly. He estimated that in a few weeks I could be running and jumping around – only if I drank the medicine he would prescribe. Most medicines taste horrible, but this one was very nice as it was full of sugar and seeds.

Many weeks passed and I knew I was getting better. I was hobbling around in the garden and digging for worms. I knew that without Molly, Sophie and the vets, I wouldn't have been able to get better. Their empathy and kindness for me allowed me to become healthy again and I owe everything to them because they saved my life.