

### **Lola & Billy's story by Jessie Robbins**

Lola and Billy came into our lives only a week apart, both from the YAPS rescue centre. I would never consider getting a dog from a breeder after walking into that place. I wished that I could take them all home. We were far more excited than the dogs as we introduced them to one another. Lola appeared to have acquired a superiority complex during her week alone with us, and wanted nothing to do with poor Billy, (who was smaller than her then), refusing to even acknowledge at him on the journey home. That day marked the beginning of our little family. Although back then it seemed like bad timing, these dogs have brought so much laughter and cheer into our lives at times when we needed it the most. They have taught us to reflect on our behaviours and how they impact our relationships; that understanding and respect come from kindness and patience.

Billy soon overtook Lola in size, but she will always be the boss. Lola lights up our days with a delightful variety of gifts accompanied by her wiggle waggle dance. Whether it's a bone, a leaf or a piece of old pipe, she never greets us empty handed. Smart, agile and courageous, Lola loves to free climb rock faces, tear through the rainforest and is always first to brave the waves, should there be a ball to retrieve. Billy, on the other hand, prefers to tackle her on the route back, stealing the glory and delivering the ball to Mum with great pride! Though fast for his size, Billy rarely wins the race; and has thus made wrestling his 'thing'. Despite his big brother antics, he is a big softy underneath and has been known to run from dogs no bigger than rats. He is never far from my side, always checking my whereabouts for fear of getting lost, and loves kisses and cuddles! Our dogs are best friends to one another and to us, our most loyal companions, and our angels with paws.

