



DARREN BROWN/SUN MEDIA

Ryan Carman walks four-month-old Pete in Stanley Park yesterday. Carmen and his partner Sarah O'Neill adopted Pete from India after learning about his plight on the Internet. The pup now has a canine sister named Georgia and a new home.

# 4-legged slum dog millionaire

## Pup from streets of India strikes gold with new owners

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Dev Patel may have played an Indian slum dog in the movies, but Hugo Boss is the real deal.

The four-month-old puppy was plucked several weeks ago from the streets of Ahmedabad, a city north of Mumbai, malnourished, dirty and destined for a hard and short life.

But a Canadian woman happened upon him lying in the street and his life took a dramatic turn. Lisa Warden took him to her home, fed him, dewormed him and named him after the world-famous clothing designer.

Realizing it would be difficult to make him a permanent part of her family — she and her husband already owned three dogs — Warden decided to post videos and photos of Hugo on the Internet in the hope somebody, somewhere would want to adopt the pup.

And that's where Sarah O'Neill first laid eyes on him.

"I was reading a blog about pariah dogs in India," said the Ottawa woman, who already owned a young mixed-breed dog with her partner, Ryan Carman. "I clicked on a link that took me to a YouTube video of Hugo."

Watching the pale brown puppy with the large dark brown eyes frolicking around in the grass and playing with other dogs melted O'Neill's heart.

### 'That's sad'

"I have always watched shows and seen photographs and read stories about dogs needing homes and I always thought, 'That's sad,' but I had a dog already and we live in an apartment," said O'Neill. "But there was something special about Hugo."

O'Neill approached Carman and after a short discussion the couple began to make inquiries about bringing Hugo to Canada.

Warden would take care of everything on her side of the

world — vet visits, health certifications, travel documents — and the local couple would make arrangements to get him to Canada. Collectively, the effort cost about \$1,000, or the equivalent of a one-way plane ticket to Toronto from India.

O'Neill said she was moved to act after learning how poorly dogs are treated in India and how Hugo's chance of survival would have been slim.

"Dogs have little or no value in that society," she said. "I just felt I had to do what I could to bring him here."

The puppy, whom the couple renamed Pete, arrived in Toronto on Saturday. After a jaunt down Hwy. 401, Pete was introduced to his new home and his new canine sister, Georgia.

"He was a little nervous at first," said Carman. "But he very quickly became one of the family."

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