

## **A Yap, Yap, Happy Re-union in Tullamore**

It was a great day, the Feast of St Patrick, 2010, as communities all over Ireland came together to organise and support Parades held in honour of the Patron Saint. The weather was perfect. Spirits were high. Everywhere, people of all ages enjoyed themselves thoroughly but surely the happiest story of the day was that which unfolded in Tullamore as groups involved in the local Parade assembled in the Bridge Centre Car Park to prepare for their march through the town.

There as a mentor and participant in the entry submitted by the Tullamore Boy Scouts was Pauline Price, Geashill. She was busy with preparations when she glanced over at a group assembling nearby under the banner of the Offaly SPCA. She looked and, scarcely believing what she saw, she looked again. Yes, it was Gypsy, the little Jack Russell terrier which had gone missing from her home a few weeks before.

The recognition was instantaneous – on both sides. The re-union was ecstatic but it had to be interrupted almost immediately because all concerned had duties to perform in the Parade. Pauline was marching with the Tullamore Scouts and Gypsy had been enrolled to step it out behind the Offaly SPCA banner with Penny Monahan, Walsh Island, who had been providing her with foster care. Gypsy had been brought to Tullamore as a representative of the lost or abandoned dogs saying ‘Thanks’ to the Society for being found / rescued / or rehomed. Now, in the space of a few minutes, she had graduated from being one of the ‘lost’ to being one of the ‘found’! And no doubt that put an extra pep in her steps as she accompanied her foster-carer through the centre of the town to the GAA Centre where the re-union with her owner was completed an hour or so later. This had been Penny’s first experience of dog-fostering and she was left feeling a little sad at having to say ‘good-bye’ so soon but nonetheless delighted that she had been able to play such an important part in bringing about that happy ending.

Also entitled to feel pleased with the outcome were the finder, Concepta Murphy, Geashill, who had contacted the OSPCA to report a wandering dog and the OSPCA Dog Manager, Deirdre Pender, who arranged the foster-placement with Penny Monahan. It was pure coincidence that this was bringing Gypsy quite close to her own home but as it turned out she had to take the drive to Tullamore for that great re-union!



*Smiles all round as the little terrier, Gypsy, is re-united with her owner, Pauline Price, following the St Patrick's Day Parade in Tullamore.*



*Two-legged and four-legged participants in the Offaly SPCA entry are pictured following the St Patrick's Day Parade in Tullamore. Included are (l. to r.) – Audrey Quinn (with Daisy); Michael Monahan (and Baby); Sibeal McDowell, (front); Margo Mills (with Millie); Paulinea*

*Auksoriute; Cathy Coates (holding banner); Donna Mills (with Coco); John Mehigan ; Margaret Cunningham; Penny Monahan (with Gypsy); Dorothy Oakley, Chairman OSPCA; Niall Whelan (in front); Colette Coates, Hon Treasurer, OSPCA.*