

Future Looks Bright for Three-Legged Pup

(With Photo)

This looks like being a horror story with a happy ending.

Meet the hero. He is a collie type pup, now aged about 6 weeks, that was seriously injured when struck by a motor vehicle at Arden Road, Tullamore, on 20th May. The driver involved may not have been to blame – the accident could have been our hero's fault – but the driver qualifies as the villain of the piece because it appears that he/she just drove away, leaving the pup lying in his own blood with a badly smashed leg and the skin torn from his hind-quarters. It is not known exactly how long the poor animal lay there in agony before 'life savers' arrived on the scene and he was brought to the vet.

The Offaly SPCA were notified. Inquiries made locally – and broadcast on Midlands 103 – failed to locate the owner. That led to suspicion that the pup's misfortunes may have begun when he was deliberately abandoned.

Anyway, having carried out his examination, the local veterinary surgeon spelled out the options: amputation of the injured leg or euthanasia.

Then it was decision time for the OSPCA. Should they have the pup 'put to sleep' painlessly. Alternatively, should they fund the major surgery needed – including amputation of the rear right leg – in the knowledge that they would have to find someone who would give it all the nursing and foster care required over a period of weeks. And all that before they could even think of trying to find a person or persons who would give the pup a permanent home!

The pros and cons were debated. The pup was 'interviewed'. It was noted that despite his traumatic experiences he was exceptionally friendly and gentle. An absolutely lovely dog. The verdict was unanimous. He deserved a second chance. Consequently, the surgery went ahead. It proved very successful and only 2 days after his accident the pup was enjoying life to the full in an ideal foster home. 'Who needs four legs', he seemed to say, running around with such a natural grace that it took a second glance to check that he was one leg short!

Christened 'Bandit' because of the very distinctive mask-like markings on his face, the pup will be ready for adoption in a few days. All indications are that he will make a wonderful pet for some lucky family. Anyone interested in meeting him is invited to 'phone the OSPCA dog manager, Deirdre, on 086 8262986.

The OSPCA also have a number of other dogs 'in care' and they urgently need additional foster families – people prepared to take a stray or abandoned dog into their own homes while searches are made for the owner and efforts are made to secure a new home. Volunteers are invited to ring Deirdre at the same telephone number, namely 086 8262986. Without these caring foster homes dogs like Bandit may be deprived of a second chance at life.