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Mystery of the Lost & Found Puppies of Taylor Valley

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BY JOHN FREITAG



This poster shows two of the four runaways. (Provided)

On Groundhog Day, Feb. 2, four 13-week-old puppies, part of a litter of 10, found a way out of their pen and went trotting down Johnson Road in Taylor Valley. Their owner, Charles Denton, who raises top-notch working border collie sheep dogs at his Thundering Paws Farm, immediately started looking for them with the help of Strafford Dog Officer Courtney Hardy.

Two of the pups were found about a mile from the farm by painters who had been working at Denton's house who had gone out looking for them. Denton and Hardy spent until after midnight tracking the missing two to no avail, and the pups stayed out all night in sub-zero temperatures.

It turns out they had trotted to another house, where Richard A. Johnson of Vershire was working. They showed up there around 2 p.m. and then when Johnson was leaving, he found them in the garage huddled together.

Unaware of the search that was going on nearby, he posted their picture on Facebook after he got home, asking "Is anyone missing these two pups?"

Denton did not see the post and when he started down his road at 7:30 a.m. ready to canvas and knock on doors, up walked the two missing pups, looking not too much worse for having spent the night out in the cold.

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