

PEMBROKE PINES POLICE DEPARTMENT

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NEWS RELEASE

PIO ASSIGNED THIS INCIDENT: Captain A. Xiques

PPPD CASE NUMBER: _____ **DATE:** 8/20/14 **TIME:** 0900

CHARGE/INCIDENT: Police Animal Assistance Program reunites lost dog with owner, after six months missing from central Florida

PLACE OF OCCURRENCE: Pembroke Pines

VICTIM(S) – NAME, AGE, DOB, RACE, SEX, ADDRESS:

1) K-9 "Gypsie" German Shepard

2) _____

SUSPECT(S) – NAME, AGE, DOB, RACE, SEX, ADDRESS:

1) _____

2) _____

DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT: OUR BEST REUNITE STORY TO DATE!!!

The Pembroke Pines Police Animal Assistance Program prides itself in reuniting lost dogs that are found within our community with their rightful owners.

Gypsy, a one and a half year old German Shepard mix was found loose last Thursday in Pembroke Pines. Although we've been at maximum capacity which prohibits us from temporarily housing any additional dogs, volunteers from our program made it possible to hold Gypsy over night while conducting research in an effort to identify a possible owner. With the use of a chip reader, an AAP volunteer found that Gypsy was chipped, but the information on it was not updated and the contact information was incorrect. All efforts to locate the owner met with negative results, which led us to multiple dead ends.

While accommodating Gypsy over night until Broward Animal Control was able to pick her up the next day, our AAP Coordinator, Sergeant Stacy Jurgens worked diligently while off duty, in an effort to locate the owner. After several hours of trying, she identified the sister of the dog's owner through a series of investigative efforts, which led her to the dog's owner, Tammy. Tammy lives in Bell, Fl. near Gainesville, and upon Sgt. Jurgens informing her that we had found her dog, Tammy could not believe that it was possible, as Gypsy had been missing for over six months and extensive efforts to find her had not worked. Through tears, Tammy explained that Gypsy had been stolen from their family who had been devastated by the loss. Her eight and ten year old children were elated to learn that Gypsy had been found.

On Friday August 15th, one of our AAP volunteers, Detective Dean Soubasis drove half way to Bell, Fl. on his day off, and reunited Gypsy with her family. The moment was captured in the attached picture which speaks for itself. We are proud to have been a part of such a touching story by reuniting Gypsy with her family!

We have since learned that Tammy's children and Gypsy's K-9 partner "Bo" a Jack Russell Terrier, were overwhelmed with happiness upon seeing Gypsy once again.

Our agency would like to take this opportunity to remind pet owners on the importance of micro chipping their pets, as well as keeping the information updated and current. Gypsy may not have ever been reunited with her family, had it not been in part, to having a micro chip in addition to the thoughtful and persistent efforts of our AAP volunteers.

Anyone with information regarding this incident is urged to contact the Pembroke Pines Police Department at 954-431-2200, email to Tips@ppines.com, or call Crimestoppers at 954-493-TIPS