

# TAKE LEAD IN ON-SCREEN TALES HURRAY FOR

## COLLYWOOD



Lie down... Julie Holmes relaxes with border collies Logan and Jaro during an outing in Dublin's Phoenix Park

PICTURES: Barbara Lindberg

gulaea pigs. You name it. But I'm not looking for more."  
He is on the look-out for the next Brad Pitt-Bill, Ellen Barkin, Marlon Brando, Celine, or Michael Caine - or even Jerry Springer.  
They could star in a Wild Westie or even a Kerry Blue movie.  
And, while it takes dogged determination to get on in showbiz, Tommy is sure lots of Irish pets have got the wow factor. Especially in demand is the bit of ruff - a Collie Farrell.  
"People ask me if their dogs are good-looking enough. I say to them, 'Not every movie director is looking for Brad Pitt. They might want an ugly person. And it's the same with dogs.'  
"You might have a lovely, well-groomed, highly trained dog there and the director might be looking for a staggly thug. I was asked for a dog that looked 'run down' once. I had a shaggy sheepdog that fitted

the bill."  
Tommy, who has worked as a movie extra, said representing animals was a lot more fun than dealing with filmset divas. She then a rubber ball and some tasty tuna and they're happy.  
Julie said: "When they've spent a day on a film set, I break open a tin of dog food for them. That's their treat. I feed them dry meal normally."  
Nor is the beauty salon a regular feature on the animals' calendar.  
You won't catch Prudence, Logan and Jaro naked and airbrushed on the cover of a magazine - for one thing, they can't even take off their fur coats.  
"They haven't had a bath for weeks because I brush them regularly. Dogs don't need to be washed," Julie said.  
She has been training dogs for 30 years and also runs a service for owners with unruly pets.  
Her own dogs have no self-helping tendencies. Jaro has sick fits - but they were trained and he doesn't have to pay

maintenance. I'll never breed from Logan because he has got very bad hips.  
She lives alone with the dogs and said: "They're my babies."  
She has no problem telling Logan and Jaro apart even though they look so similar. "A mother knows her children," she laughed.  
As she put them through their paces for us, their eyes were glued to her.  
Onlookers took out camera phones and the dogs showed off. They were having a ball - literally.  
But bold Prudence, who doesn't live up to her name, has to be banished to the car for rolling in fox droppings - and not the 20th-century kind.  
Then a black Labrador approaches Jaro and Logan. For a moment it looks like they might have a stall, Jaro and Logan growl back, but then the Labrador wags his tail. It seems he is just another fan.



Bus stop... Red setters that were used in the Bus Eireann advert