



CARLINE JEAN, SUN SENTINEL

Jeri Smith, a volunteer at Rescue Rehab Home, plays with Edward, one of 12 dogs rescued after they were left homeless following Hurricane Gustav.

NEW 'LEASH' ON LIFE

Dogs stranded by Gustav have come to Palm Beach County

By C. Ron Allen
STAFF WRITER

BOCA RATON » Twelve dogs left stranded by Hurricane Gustav are among Palm Beach County's newest residents after volunteers at a Boca Raton shelter rescued them from a "Death Row" in Louisiana.

The shelter in Ascension Parish, near Baton Rouge, was at capacity and about to euthanize more than 100 animals to make room for those lost or abandoned during the hurricane.

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group. Kowalewski and volunteers from Colorado and New York delivered generators, fans, kennels and food for hundreds of animals in the town of Sorrento in Ascension Parish on Sept. 10. They returned the next morning with 61 dogs, including the dozen to Boca Raton.

"These dogs were in outdoor kennels for at least 10 days that didn't have power so you know it was hot," said Jeri Smith, another volunteer who made the trip. "It was a very stressful environment."

The volunteers hope to place the animals in foster homes, veterinary clinics and other animal-

rescued, said Roseann Bass, president of Ascension Animal Advocates, a group that works with the shelter. But animals continue to arrive daily.

Kowalewski's group plans a similar rescue trip to Texas once the dogs find a home, she said.

Anyone wishing to adopt one of the dogs may apply online. Officials will review applications and arrange home visits if adopters have children or other pets. The process also includes a \$150 donation, which includes spaying/neutering and vaccinations.

To adopt a dog, go to www.rescuerehabhome.org.

Staff Writer Matthew Strozier contrib-