



Photo courtesy of KPC Sedona

**KUNZANG PALYUL** Chöling received 110 dogs rescued from Louisiana in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. The Buddhist group will now look after the animals and attempt to reunite them with their owners.

## KPC cares for 110 dogs rescued from La.

*Local Buddhists will feed, shelter and look after animals*

On Sept. 28, Kunzang Palyul Chöling received 110 dogs rescued in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in Louisiana.

They arrived by chartered jet at Sky Harbor International Airport, Phoenix, and were transported to KPC retreat land near Payson by a double-decker cattle truck. A dozen SUVs took the smaller dogs and a few cats.

At Payson, volunteers were on hand to care for the dogs on the ranch land. Shelters had been built in anticipation of the airlift.

The animals will be fed, sheltered, looked after medically, and cared for with the intention of finding foster homes for them while attempts are being made to locate their owners through [www.Petfinders.com](http://www.Petfinders.com).

Volunteers are needed on a daily basis to feed and walk the dogs, clean pens and love them up.

"We are totally committed to helping these animals return to a healthy state. The land where they are staying is peaceful and quiet," Megan Gilana, coordinator, said. "The dogs we've gotten in the last couple of days are really thriving. With a lot of love and deep caring, we are seeing dramatic turnarounds.

"So many people have come forward to help, it's been wonderful. We have gotten many supplies, food and lots of in-kind donations. Mostly we urgently need funds to handle our operations including

fencing, igloos for warmer shelter, propane and lots of things that spring up daily."

Connections were made early on during the KPC animal rescue effort. Best Friends Animal Society in nearby Tylertown, Miss., had set up triage operations where hundreds of dogs were treated for chemical burns from toxic sludge, dehydration and other potentially life-threatening conditions.

The 110 dogs that were airlifted had been identified, vaccinated, micro-chipped and released by a veterinarian, as well as being placed on [www.Petfinders.com](http://www.Petfinders.com) with the intention of reuniting them with their owners.

San Francisco Bay area developer Bill McLaughlin and the Marin Humane Society have been instrumental in arranging several rescue operations with charter flights. To date, more than 1,400 dogs have been flown out of Louisiana.

"We're ready to have folks come to the retreat land and foster out these wonderful animals. We're also working on a plan to have well-equipped shelters in other states take a number of the Katrina dogs," Gilana reported.

More help is urgently needed to care for these rescued animals. Contact KPC at 282-5195 to donate, foster a dog or cat or volunteer and/or assist with in-kind donations.

Kunzang Palyul Chöling is a 501(c)(3) center for study and practice of Tibetan Buddhism in the Nyingma tradition under the direction and guidance of Jetsunma Ahkon Lhamo. The center is at 3270 White Bear Road in Sedona. Web site is [www.kpc-sedona.org](http://www.kpc-sedona.org).