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Smokey the dog, sanctuary director getting free flight

Continental Airlines to fly Tibetan Buddhist nun from Arizona shelter to fetch abused dog.

By [Mark Gokavi](#), Staff Writer Updated 10:04 AM Thursday, December 9, 2010

Smokey the dog's flight plan to live in an Arizona sanctuary is set, but not being released.

The dog accused of biting a child and was later hit with a Louisville Slugger baseball bat and hit with a car will be flown to Tara's Babies in central Arizona in the next 10 days.

"Greene County does not want any media around this at all," said Kunzang Drolma, director of Tara's Babies. "I respect that and I said I would honor that."

Drolma, a Tibetan Buddhist nun, said she is getting a free flight from Continental Airlines to fly to Dayton. After that, she'll collect Smokey at Animal Control in Xenia, go back to the airport and return back to the 140-acre ranch in Young, which is northeast of Phoenix and originally was used to take care of animals displaced by Hurricane Katrina in the Gulf Coast.

"I'm really happy that Smokey will be coming here," she said of the sanctuary that has about 70 dogs with 10 being called lifers. "Smokey will never again be abused. He will always be loved."

Smokey will receive two square meals per day, necessary medical attention and exercise. Drolma said she will evaluate whether or not Smokey could ever be adopted out.

Drolma credited Greene County and Animal Control Director Dr. Harold Brown for their admirable job in a difficult situation.

Drolma said the \$1,400 its organization raised was to fence in a new yard for Smokey, a 5-year-old Rottweiler/collie mix.

She said Greene County wanted to be reimbursed for the cost of housing the dog since he was taken there in August. No county funds are to be used in the transfer process.