



<http://www.wdtn.com/dpp/news/%22smokey%22-leaves-for-dog-sanctuary>

# "Smokey" leaves for dog sanctuary

## The once abused dog now has a bright future

Updated: Thursday, 16 Dec 2010, 7:53 AM EST

Published : Wednesday, 15 Dec 2010, 6:33 PM EST

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DAYTON, Ohio (WDTN) - Smokey the dog once again attracted attention as he made his final appearance in the Dayton area Wednesday.

The once-abused pup walked on a leash next to his new "mom" into Dayton International Airport. The pair was catching a flight to Arizona, where Smokey will make a dog sanctuary his new home. It's his first day outside a shelter in four months.

In August, Smokey's Fairborn owners, Chastity Elliot and Robert Profitt, told 2 News they beat the dog because he'd bitten a family member. Smokey survived the attack and was taken to the Greene County Animal Shelter, where he was set to be euthanized because of his biting history.

2 News viewers and animal lovers across the country spoke out for Smokey, and Arizona dog sanctuary "Tara's Babies," run by Buddhist nuns, offered to take Smokey for life.

"It's a huge day for Smokey because as I said, he's been in isolation and literally behind a door that says "isolation" on it. Only two people have been allowed to work with him because of his bite history and because he was given up for euthanasia," said Kunzang Drolma, who will be Smokey's caretaker at the sanctuary.

Donations from Facebook friends paid for a fenced yard, doggie cabin and deck for Smokey within the sanctuary. Drolma said she will personally play with, walk and feed Smokey each day.

"I will treat him like he's my baby," she said.

Drolma said officials at the shelter told her that Smokey's behavior changed dramatically the day of his journey.

"He knew today would be a different day," said Drolma.

And as Drolma spoke encouraging words to Smokey and stroked his fur, Smokey showed love in return. Drolma said she believes Smokey's biting was triggered by the abuse.

"Certainly he's a dominant dog, so he needs to understand that people are in charge, but he's not inherently a biting dog," said Drolma. "I believe any dog has the potential to change."

It's exactly what so many have hoped for Smokey; he will leave his past behind, and move on.

"Nothing bad's going to happen to him ever again. I wish I could say that for every dog," Drolma said.

Besides the many private donors who helped to make Smokey's journey possible, Continental Airlines donated the air travel, and Ramada Inn gave Drolma a free room the night before she took Smokey home.