

Sunday, September 25, 2005

## Weeks after Katrina, Peanut finds her 'mom'

### Displaced in Louisiana, dachshund reunited here with owner

By **Lori Kurtzman**  
Enquirer staff writer

They'd separated weeks ago, at a Wal-Mart in Gonzales, La.

Emily Dow had a plan: She and her boyfriend would hop a bus there and roar away from Hurricane Katrina. They'd been trying to flee for days, moving from Luling to Kenner, areas just west of New Orleans and south of Lake Pontchartrain, before finally heading northwest to Gonzales. The bus was their chance to get out.

Just one problem: Peanut.

She was a squirmy little dachshund Dow got from her boyfriend's grandmother. Like all pets, she wouldn't be allowed on the bus.

So a decision was made, and that's how Dow, 19, and Peanut, 7 months, lost each other. Peanut was entrusted to a neighbor while Dow made her way here, to her aunt's home in Madison Place.

But the neighbor couldn't keep the dog, which ended up being given to a rescue group.

Dow - now building a life with her boyfriend in Cincinnati, where she's originally from - wondered whether she'd see Peanut again. How do you move a wiener dog hundreds of miles when you could barely do it yourself? Doubt crept in. And sadness.

Dow didn't know then about Sonja Felix and the hundreds of volunteers working to help the thousands of animals displaced by Katrina.

She didn't know that a bus carrying 24 rescued dogs - including one Peanut - would roll up to an animal hospital in Amelia. She didn't know that Felix, a Glendale woman who works for the Labrador retriever rescue organization Labs4Rescue, would stroll in, Peanut in hand.

But that's just what happened Saturday.

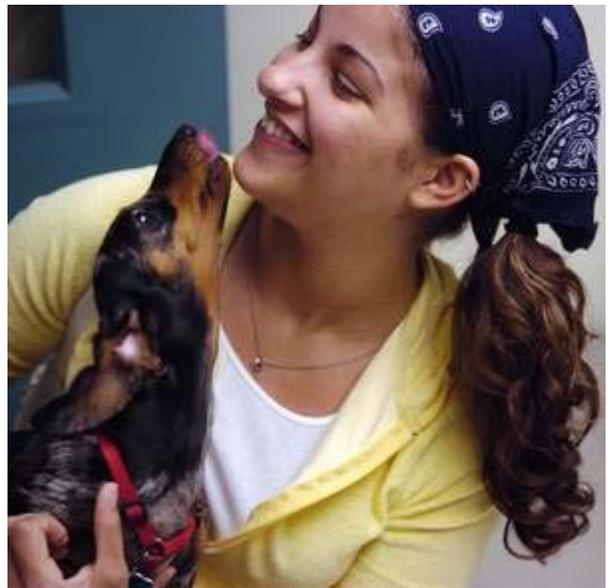
Felix, who typically transports rescued Labs to Connecticut, had received the busload of dogs that morning. Peanut had been an add-on.

Felix called Dow and told her to come on in.

That's how Dow and Peanut were reunited in an exam room at the All Creatures Animal Hospital.

Peanut's tail wagged. Her body shook. Dow walked in and got a faceful of dog kisses.

"I know," she said.



**ZOOM** The Enquirer/Sarah Conard  
Emily Dow, 19, of Luling, La., is reunited at Amelia's All Creatures Animal Hospital with Peanut, after being separated just before Hurricane Katrina struck in August.

#### KATRINA PETS

Thousands of animals are being rescued from hurricane-ravaged areas on the Gulf Coast, and some are making their way to Cincinnati. The League For Animal Welfare, a no-kill shelter at 4193 Taylor Road, Batavia, took in eight dogs and 13 cats from Louisiana, and most are now available for adoption. Animals are vaccinated and spayed or neutered. Cost: \$75 for dogs, \$60 for cats. For more information, visit [www.lfaw.org](http://www.lfaw.org) or call (513) 735-2299.

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