

# Evergreen nonprofit helps rescue

BY VICKY GITS  
Staff Writer

A Evergreen woman  
△ ^ with a soft heart -  
/A. A Afor the plight of the  
multitude of stray and abandoned  
dogs on Grand Bahama Island  
managed to find temporary homes  
in the Denver area for 30 puppies  
that otherwise probably would  
have been euthanized.

On April 2, Ellen Kohn was at  
Denver International Airport at  
12:30 a.m. to greet a puppy lift  
consisting of 30 dogs flown out of  
the settlement of West End on  
Grand Bahama Island to Fort  
Lauderdale and then to Denver.  
Another 55 dogs went to locations  
on the East Coast.

As executive director of the  
Kohn Foundation, Ellen Kohn has  
been raising money to support the  
Humane Society of Grand Bahama  
since 2005.

Recent budget cuts at the  
privately run Humane Society in  
Freeport prompted the puppy  
placement crisis and inspired Kohn  
to spring into action.

The puppies coming to Denver  
were distributed to no-kill shelters  
like the Max Fund, Lifeline Puppy  
Rescue of Brighton, Poudre Puppy  
Rescue, Front Range German  
Shepherd Rescue and half a dozen  
foster homes. Most are about 12  
weeks old. The dogs are all clean,  
vaccinated and come with a health  
certificate.

"They are very smart, loyal  
dogs. They are eager to please and  
very grateful," Kohn said. "We all  
adore our dogs."

She had only a couple of days to  
pull all the logistics together while  
the health certificates were in  
effect. A Max Fund volunteer was



Photo provided

**ABOVE ARE SOME OF THE DOGS** that were rescued from a  
Humane Society shelter in Freeport, Grand Bahama, with the  
help of the Evergreen-based Kohn Foundation. Thirty dogs  
were delivered to various rescue agencies and foster homes in  
the Denver area on an emergency basis on April 2.

**AT RIGHT, ELLEN KOHN WITH HER DOGS**, Simon, a Bahamian  
"potcake," in the foreground and collie mix Tucker, from puppy  
rescue shelter.

found to open the shelter at i a.m.

Placing so many animals  
required hours and hours of calling  
back and forth.

"I was screaming when Lifeline  
said they would take 10 puppies,  
because that's a lot," Kohn said.

The outlook for the average dog  
in Grand Bahama is bleak. They  
don't live in houses like pets but are  
mostly abandoned and starving,  
trying to live on their own. There  
is a large population of homeless  
animals. "There are good owners  
who really care, but it's not a  
priority," Kohn said.

About 100 to 200 dogs are col-  
lected each month and sent to the  
shelter, but only 5 to 10 percent are  
adopted out. The rest don't survive.

To an observer, the situation  
may seem hopeless, but Kohn be-  
lieves in doing what she can. Plus,  
it seems there is always a demand  
for puppies.

"People like puppies. It's still  
saving a life. In my view, we are  
all connected. These are orphans,"  
Kohn said. "I saw the need, and  
nobody else was doing anything."

Five years ago Kohn adopted a  
popular Bahamian mixed-breed  
called a "potcake," after the native  
dish of beans and rice. (The  
leftover peas and rice are often fed  
to the dogs; hence the name.)

Kohn became interested in  
animal conditions in the Bahamas  
after purchasing a condo vacation  
home at an island resort there.

# Bahamian puppies



Photo by VICKY GITS | The Courier

Contributions are tax deductible.

The foundation initially was conceived to raise money to help young men and women who live in the West End pay for college educations at a local university. Kohn not only finds the money for the scholarships, but also mentors the teenagers and encourages them to stay focused on school.

In 2005 she formed a partnership with the Humane Society of Grand Bahama and organized a spay and neuter project, staffed entirely by volunteer veterinarians and technicians, using the community room of a local church.

It took two years to organize the project and in five days in 2007, 253 dogs and cats were sterilized.

When Kohn is not saving puppies and mentoring college students, she uses her talents as an animal communicator and healer. The website is [www.enlightenedanimals.com](http://www.enlightenedanimals.com).

More information on the Kohn Foundation, how to help and make donations is available at [www.thekohndfoundation.org](http://www.thekohndfoundation.org).

People who want to adopt the dogs can contact Ellen Kohn at 303-670-1023 or by e-mail at [horsegal52@aol.com](mailto:horsegal52@aol.com).