

# Chicago Tribune

## Winfrey takes in 2 springer spaniels from shelter

Oprah Winfrey gave herself a birthday present Friday when she got two springer spaniel puppies from a Chicago shelter, according to her Web site and the shelter.

In keeping with the background of their high-profile new owner, the puppies, 14-week-old sisters Sunny and Lauren, already made their first television appearance, on "The Oprah Winfrey Show" on Friday.

Winfrey contacted shelter officials about six months ago asking them to be on the lookout for springer spaniel pups, said Paula



Lauren



Sunny

Fasseas, founder and chair of PAWS, a Chicago-based no-kill shelter at 1997 N. Clybourn Ave.

She said that while she is just happy that the dogs were saved, she

is particularly excited with them going to Winfrey because of her ability to put a focus on saving shelter animals.

"What's really wonderful about Oprah adopting is that she educates the world and the message is to go to a shelter," Fasseas said. "She's really directed so much attention to this terrible problem we have with homeless pets."

Fasseas said Winfrey has been a generous donor to the shelter. Winfrey has featured dogs and the shelter in her magazine.

Shelter officials search the city

pound in an effort to save animals from being euthanized and to find them homes, Fasseas said. The siblings were part of a litter turned over to the pound by an owner.

Fasseas said she had only told shelter workers to keep an eye out for a springer spaniel. She told them a "donor" was interested.

When the dogs were located, a picture was sent to Winfrey's assistants. After seeing the dogs in person, she decided to keep them, Fasseas said.

— Carlos Sadovi