

'Designer dogs' caught in divorce

The Labradoodles were turned over to animal control after their breeders split.

By **ERIN COX**
SENTINEL STAFF WRITER

LADY LAKE — The Australian Labradoodles once had their curly coats groomed and ate doggie gourmet meals of raw meat, V8 juice and yogurt.

The Labrador-poodle hybrids fetched \$2,900 each for their breeders, Angela and Derek Cunningham, until the 47 dogs became victims in the couple's divorce.

The Labradoodles were neglected — their non-shedding coats matted and covered in sandspurs.

Packed into outdoor kennels at the breeding ground in Lady Lake, some dogs suffered heatstroke, some had sores and others drank slimy green water.

When Angela Cunningham



TOM BENITEZ/ORLANDO SENTINEL

Leslie Kalwara plays with adopted Australian Labradoodles in Lady Lake on Thursday. The dogs' breeder turned them over to animal control.

took control of the dogs late last month, animal-control officials warned her that the dogs' care and living conditions needed dramatic improvement.

The next day she sent 30 dogs, worth at least \$75,000, to the pound. In less than two days, every designer dog was

PLEASE SEE **DOGS, B7**