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SISTER MARY MICHAEL GREABER, a Dominican nun, visits Carla (left) and Nickie at her deceased aunt's home in Memphis, Tenn., Monday. AP PHOTO

Two mutts live in fully furnished house

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) These two mutts live in a "dog-house" that's fully furnished, has a color television and is big enough for humans.

Nickie and Carla live in the house of their deceased owner and are visited twice a day by a nun who feeds them and takes them for walks.

"For dogs, it's a pretty good life," said Sister Mary Michael Greaber, 66.

The mixed-breed dogs — both brown and short-haired — have been in her care for about seven years, since the death of her aunt Helen Walsh, their owner.

Walsh lived alone with her

pets and provided for them in her will. If they are allowed to live out their lives in the house, the nun can sell it and give the money to charity.

"They were my aunt's closest companions, but nobody would want them now," she said. "Carla is 10 and Nickie is 11. If it hadn't been for my aunt, they'd be back on the streets. Where would they go?"

While a tenant rents part of the house, Carla and Nickie have a kitchen, a large den with color television, a bedroom with a double bed to

themselves and a large yard.

They spend much of their day on the sofa in front of the television.

The nun visits them in the morning and afternoon. She said her aunt, while in rapidly failing health in a hospital, insisted on going home shortly before her death, because her dogs couldn't visit her.

"I was there," the nun said. "She'd say, 'Bring in the girls,' and I must have brought those dogs in to see her 20 times. She died a day later."