

Death row pit bull Snoop spared lethal squirt four times: he's got a lawyer!

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Tuesday, April 27th 2010, 4:00 AM

He's the dog with nine lives.

Snoop, a 2-year-old pit bull from the Bronx, has been on Death Row at the city's Animal Care & Control shelter since January.

His secret for avoiding a lethal injection? Like any smart defendant, Snoop lawyered up.

"By hook or by crook, I've kept this thing going," the dog's mouthpiece, Rachel Hirschfeld, told the Daily News yesterday.

"I'll do anything I can to keep him alive."

Snoop ended up in this predicament after slipping out of his owner's yard and biting a father and child.

The injuries were not permanently disfiguring, Hirschfeld said, but the city Health Department ruled he had to be euthanized.

Snoop's owner, a 22-year-old security guard who asked not to be identified, purchased her pooch from a breeder when he was 2 months old and named Capos.

After the death sentence was handed down, she called many lawyers before finding Hirschfeld, who agreed to work for free.

She's outfoxed city officials, forcing them to grant four stays of execution with demands that the dog's rights are followed to the letter of the law.



Snoop, a pit bull, has been on Death Row after biting several people, but has dodged euthanasia due to being well-represented by a lawyer.

Snoop is demanding a hearing before an administrative law judge - and he can't be executed until it happens. One hasn't been scheduled.

In the meantime, Hirschfeld is trying to work out a plea deal.

Snoop's owner has agreed to get him neutered, put a muzzle on him and keep him behind a fence, but the Health Department isn't biting.

Kevan Cleary, a volunteer at the shelter, said he's never heard of a dog dodging death this long.

"Most dogs last a few days on Death Row," Cleary said.

While the legal battle is waged, Snoop spends his days in a 5-foot-by-5-foot cage. He's been there so long, he's bonded with shelter workers.

"He is very fond of Boar's Head bologna and he likes to have his neck scratched," Cleary noted.