



Joyful owner takes home pitbull

BY Barry Paddock and Ryan Lavis
DAILY NEWS WRITERS

Francesca (right), with her attorney Rachel Hirschfeld (left), takes home her beloved dog Snoop, who spent more than 8 months on death row.

Never say die.

Snoop, a sweet young pit bull, won the reprieve after a quixotic fight by his owner, Francesca, who enlisted the support of a pet advocate lawyer and agreed to build an elaborate secure enclosure. "You're coming home with me," Francesca, 23, cooed after Snoop was released into her arms. "I love him to death."

The alleged dog-bite drama unfolded on Dec. 6, while Roker and his daughter Taite strolled the neighborhood looking at Christmas lights. Snoop was caged at an Animal Care & Control shelter and survived the ordeal. He was the longest-held caged animal on death row in New York history!

The pooch was saved by the tireless work of Rachel Hirschfeld, a lawyer and pet advocate who worked free, winning Snoop a stay of execution. "I told you I'd get him out," Hirschfeld crowed. "Every three days, I had to talk to them about not killing him." Hirschfeld's clients chipped in \$2,200 for Snoop's room and board.

Francesca declined to comment on the attack, except to say Snoop had never bitten anyone before. She erected the 7-foot fence around her house to satisfy authorities that Snoop would never get loose again. Francesca visited Snoop two or three times a week throughout his long incarceration. "Last time I came to visit, I was like, 'I'm probably never going to get him back,'" Francesca said. "It's been really tough."