



**RICHARD A. BROWN**  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

**DISTRICT ATTORNEY  
QUEENS COUNTY  
125-01 QUEENS BOULEVARD  
KEW GARDENS, NEW YORK 11415-1568  
718-286-6000**

Release # 95-2009  
[www.queensda.org](http://www.queensda.org)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2009

**CONTACT:** KEVIN RYAN  
HELEN PETERSON  
MERIS CAMPBELL  
(718)286-6315

**QUEENS WOMAN SENTENCED TO 30 DAYS IN JAIL  
FOR STUFFING DYING DOG IN SUITCASE AND THROWING IT IN TRASH**

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown today announced that a Maspeth woman who disposed of her severely beaten 9-year-old male poodle by shoving it into a suitcase and then throwing the suitcase in a trash can outside of her house has been sentenced to 30 days in jail.

District Attorney Brown said, "The defendant showed a complete disregard for the life of a helpless and severely injured animal. Instead of getting help, the defendant unceremoniously tossed the dog into the trash like rubble to either die a slow death or be crushed by a sanitation truck's compactor."

District Attorney Brown identified the defendant as Sonia Perez, 21, of 60-49 54<sup>th</sup> Place in Maspeth. Perez, who has been free on \$1,000 bail since her arrest on March 5, 2009, appeared yesterday before Queens Supreme Court Justice Dorothy Chin-Brandt and pleaded guilty to attempted aggravated cruelty to animals. She was immediately sentenced to thirty days in jail and three years' probation. In addition, Perez was ordered to make restitution to the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals for the medical care it administered prior to the poodle's death.

The District Attorney said that, in pleading guilty, the defendant admitted that she placed a suitcase containing her poodle in a trash can outside her residence on March 3, 2009. A passerby, hearing noises coming from the trash can, opened the can and discovered the small poodle inside the suitcase. The poodle was having difficulty breathing, was very cold, and laying limp and non-responsive in its own feces. The dog was taken to the local Animal Care and Control Center and later turned over to the ASPCA where it was diagnosed with scrotal bruising and rib fractures. The dog died the following day as a result of its injuries.

At the time of her arrest, Perez told police that she had a dog and it was hard to take care of the dog with a child.

Assistant District Attorney Heather Nicoletti, of the District Attorney's Narcotics Trial Bureau, prosecuted the case under the overall supervision of Assistant District Attorneys Robert J. Ferino, Barry S. Weinrib, Deputy Bureau Chiefs and Randi B. Koch-Nir, Supervisor, and the overall supervision of Senior Executive Assistant District Attorney for Trials James C. Quinn and Deputy Executive Assistant District Attorneys for Trials John H. Larsen and Robert J. Masters.

#

**Note to Editors: E-version of this press release is posted on [www.queensda.org](http://www.queensda.org)**