

## Idaho Supreme Court asked to hear case of dog on death row in Craigmont

\* February 13th, 2010

\* (0) comments

By Kathy Hedberg of the Tribune

Butch...

GRANGEVILLE - Butch, the American Staffordshire terrier who has been on doggie death row in Craigmont since September, is appealing for his life to the Idaho Supreme Court.

Butch's owner, Pamela Thompson of Craigmont, filed an appeal Wednesday asking the high court to review actions by 2nd District Judge John H. Bradbury, remanding the case back to the Craigmont City Council.

Butch has been in custody since allegations were made in August that he got out of Thompson's trailer house while she was not at home and harassed the 3-year-old son of Craigmont's dog catcher, Jeremiah Wynott. American Staffordshire terriers are sometimes known as pit bulls.

Thompson said she checked with the child's mother that day and was told Butch had not bitten her child. Later, however, allegations of biting and other harassment were made. Butch is accused of bad acts while he lived in Elk City with Thompson's son, Tim.

Bradbury said he could not make a decision in the case because the Craigmont City Council failed to record the hearing in which it decided Butch was a dangerous dog. Thompson's attorney, Linda Pall of Moscow, said the council violated Thompson's due-process rights by failing to provide her with information before the hearing and refusing to hear all of her evidence.

Pall also said the city council violated Idaho's open meeting law by making its decision about Butch's fate outside a public meeting.

Those are the issues Pall is emphasizing in her appeal to the state's high court.

A rehearing of the issue with the council had been scheduled for Friday, but was postponed until the Supreme Court can make a decision in the matter.

So far, no hearing dates have been set. Butch remains in the custody of the Craigmont City Council.

---

Hedberg may be contacted at [khedberg@camasnet.com](mailto:khedberg@camasnet.com) or (208) 983-2326.