



THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE
PROTECTION
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Tortured raccoon shows need for change

ABBOTSFORD, B.C. The incredible pain suffered by a local raccoon caught in an unsafe trap, before his euthanasia by a wildlife rehabilitation clinic, will not go unchallenged, announced The Association for the Protection of Fur-Bearing Animals (APFA).

The raccoon was found in a tree at the intersection of Calgary Avenue and Lethbridge Street, the trap hanging from his front right paw. Severely injured, the raccoon was transferred to Critter Care Wildlife Society, who specialize in such care. But it wasn't enough.

His paw was swollen. Circulation had been cut off for so long that the tissue already showed signs of necrosis. It took two trained individuals to remove the trap. Due to the extent of his injuries and the clear pain being suffered, the raccoon was humanely euthanized.

“This is the truth about wildlife management in British Columbia,” said Lesley Fox, Executive Director of APFA. “Cruel traps that cause untold suffering are used, behind the scenes and without public consent. But when the pain becomes clear – when the public knows the torturous ordeal these animals suffer – governments must be ready to listen.”

APFA is supporting a call to action for the residents of Abbotsford for an immediate push to end the use of leg-hold, Conibear and body-gripping traps in their community.

“Until such a time that the government of British Columbia listens to the majority of residents and rids the use of these inherently cruel traps, it is up to municipalities to protect their environmental interests and their public.”

Municipalities including Nanaimo and Sechelt have put in place the framework to end or regulate trapping in their communities, pending approval from the Ministry of Lands, Forests and Natural Resources.

“It is time for a change,” Fox said. “It is time for British Columbia to be a leader in modern wildlife management.”