



April 28, 2014

Harrowing Easter weekend for Calgary rabbit

Wildlife advocacy group offers \$1,000 reward for information about trapping incident

CALGARY - A disturbing Easter weekend trapping incident has led The Association for the Protection of Fur-Bearing Animals (APFA) to put a \$1,000 reward on the table to find the person(s) responsible.

Resident Brenda Willy connected with APFA on April 27 to share her story.

“I was cleaning in the back and I heard this ‘clink, clink, clink,’ sound coming from down the alley,” Brenda told APFA. “I look and out came this large rabbit with a leg-hold trap. I think his leg was broken.”

Brenda, along with neighbours and friends, searched the rest of the day for the rabbit. There has been only one other sighting.

“We haven’t found the rabbit,” Brenda said. “He may have died a horrible death.”

This is not the first time in recent years that trapping has caused upset with residents.

“We know of four separate incidents involving trapping that were reported by the media in Calgary in recent years,” said Adrian Nelson, Director of Communications for APFA. “This is a disturbing trend – one that needs to stop.”

In addition to the \$1,000 reward for information leading to a conviction or fine to the person(s) responsible for the incident involving the rabbit, APFA is calling on the City of Calgary to consider restricting the use of traps in the city and on city property.

“Municipalities have the ability to ban or restrict trapping in Alberta,” Nelson added. “This is a move that we’re seeing communities in British Columbia and Ontario making. People are realizing the inherent risks and cruelty involved in trapping. They’re telling their governments they don’t want these devices near their homes or where they play. It’s time for governments to listen.”

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Additional Facts:

- Rabbits can be shot or trapped by a snare at any time on private property in Alberta; however, they cannot be caught using other traps
- Rabbits are not covered under the Agreement of International Humane Trapping Standards
- Traps in Alberta – and Canada – do not require any kind of identification tagging or warning flags
- APFA hosted a Celebration of Wildlife in Calgary on April 12, 2014, an event focusing on co-existence