



---

*Tuesday, July 15, 2014*

## **Wildlife at risk from common snap traps**

**National animal advocacy group wants consumer awareness from retailers, legislation**

**VANCOUVER** - Horrific injuries to a squirrel have spurred a national animal advocacy group to target British Columbian legislators and retailers in an attempt to have consumer awareness a requirement whenever snap and glue traps are sold.

The Association for the Protection of Fur-Bearing Animals (APFA) was informed of the squirrel, whose jaw was crushed in a common rat trap, by the Wildlife Rescue Association of B.C. The trap was set by a B.C. family who was told it was a “humane” method of pest control. The results spoke for themselves.

“It is extremely disturbing to know that these traps are present across the province,” says Adrian Nelson of APFA. “And even more disturbing when it’s realized that consumers have no idea the kind of horrendous pain and distress it will cause to animals.”

Traps are indiscriminate – any animal of appropriate size will be caught, regardless of the traps intended purpose. In the case of the squirrel, it was set to catch rats.

“No trap will work as designed 100 per cent of the time,” Nelson says. “And you only need to look at the photos or videos of trapped animals to realize that this is by no means a humane method of wildlife control.”

Nelson wants legislators in British Columbia to enact legislation requiring that these consequences are fully disclosed to consumers prior to purchase. APFA has also made available a letter for consumers to take in to their local retailer requesting the same.

“Consumers have the right to know the upsetting truth of the result of using these devices,” Nelson says. “There is no quick death and there is no humane solution when snap or glue traps are involved.”

Nelson also recommends those with a concern about wildlife in and around their homes look to their local SPCA or humane society for advice on a humane wildlife control company.