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Rash of trapped dogs prompts warning from advocates

Leg-hold, Conibear traps responsible for three recent injuries and deaths of dogs

HAMILTON - The recent deaths of two and injury of one dog is pushing a national advocacy group to issue a warning to all pet owners this week.

"We have received notification of at least three dogs who have been injured or killed by legal and 'certified humane' traps in Ontario, Quebec and Newfoundland and Labrador since mid-November," says Michael Howie, spokesperson for The Association for the Protection of Fur-Bearing Animals (APFA). "There are no regulations requiring signage, flags or notification to nearby residents or visitors that trapping is occurring. A relaxing afternoon walk can turn into a living nightmare in seconds."

APFA attempt to track the incidents, but must rely on media reports and personal correspondence as there are no reporting regulations around non-target catch, such as domestic dogs or cats.

Since mid-November, the Fur-Bearers have learned of three incidents:

- [Happy Valley-Goose Bay](#), Newfoundland and Labrador (leg-hold trap severely injured Bella, who required extensive oral surgery as a result);
- [Stirling, Ontario](#) (Conibear killed a mid-sized dog on a popular multi-use trail); and,
- [Eastern Townships](#), Quebec (Conibear killed a dog on a nature preserve).

"It has been clear to our Association for more than 50 years that trapping will never be humane and animals will always suffer," Howie adds. "Whether it is a pet dog or cat who is exploring or a wild animal simply trying to survive, traps indiscriminately injure, maim and kill. In 21st century Canada, there is no justification for this. We need Canadians to know that until our provincial and territorial governments take action to end this cruel practice and the fur industry that props it up, they need to exercise additional caution during trapping seasons."

Earlier this year, The Association for the Protection of Fur-Bearing Animals launched the [MakeFurHistory.com](#) website and campaign, targeting fur farms, which kill millions of mink and fox. But trapping remains a real and present danger to all animals, from coast to coast to coast.

"We can end this needless cruelty, we can end trapping," says Howie. "Working together, we can Make Fur History in Canada."

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Since 1953, The Association for the Protection of Fur-Bearing Animals (APFA) have worked to bring an end to cruel trapping methods and the fur industry. APFA also work with communities and municipalities to develop co-existence strategies for preventing and mitigating wildlife conflict. Learn more at [FurBearerDefenders.com](#).
