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Richmond rabbits injured by snares

Trapping only causes suffering, doesn't offer solutions

RICHMOND – Two rabbits injured by snares are receiving veterinary care and a wildlife protection charity is reminding residents that traps aren't a solution.

The Fur-Bearers, a B.C.-based non-profit formed in 1953, was contacted by numerous parties regarding rabbits who were found in Richmond with wire snares around their necks.

“These rabbits were in very clear distress and we're grateful that local animal lovers were able to assist in getting them to a veterinarian,” says Lesley Fox, Executive Director of The Fur-Bearers. “As a result of their initial efforts, the BC Conservation Officer Service was able to launch an investigation and we can now report the traps involved have been removed from the area.”

Whether it is wild rabbits or domesticated rabbits released (illegally) by their owners, trapping and lethal choices rarely resolve the underlying problems that lead to negative encounters with wildlife. Identifying attractants, securing gardens and exploring non-lethal options like humane removal companies can keep animals safe – as well as property. Setting traps within 200m of a dwelling in British Columbia is unlawful.

“We are also taking this opportunity to remind residents that releasing domestic animals into the wild is illegal and extremely harmful not just to the individual, who may not be equipped to survive in nature, but to the ecosystem as a whole,” Fox says. “Please spay and neuter your rabbits and contact small animal rescues prior to buying rabbits as pets.”

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The Fur-Bearers was formed in 1953 to advocate on behalf of fur-bearing animals in the wild and in confinement, as well as work with communities to help them coexist with wildlife. The wildlife protection group is a registered Canadian charity, headquartered in British Columbia.

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