

PUBLIC WARNING: Traps don't resolve problems *Raccoons with horrific injuries taken to wildlife rehabilitators with traps*

VANCOUVER – Conservationists are asking British Columbians to seek out professional assistance in managing negative encounters with wildlife after two raccoons sustained horrific injuries in traps.

The Fur-Bearers, a non-partisan, charitable organization founded in 1953, received reports from both Critter Care Wildlife Society in Langley and the BC SPCA's Wild ARC about raccoons suffering significant injuries from highly dangerous traps in British Columbia. One was found in Oak Bay, the other near West 14th Avenue in Vancouver.

“The injuries being caused by so-called humane traps in British Columbia are horrifying and unnecessary,” says Michael Howie, spokesperson for The Fur-Bearers. “While we are unable to ascertain the exact location and purpose of the individuals who set these traps, we are aware many people attempt to use traps to remove animals with whom they're experiencing negative encounters. What these individuals don't know is that even modern leg-hold, cuff-style and other-body gripping traps can cause immense suffering to wildlife.”

Broken bones, chewed off digits and necrotic flesh are among the injuries sustained by the raccoons, found in separate areas of the province with different types of traps attached to them. In past cases, it has been reported that individuals trying to reduce negative encounters with wildlife on their property seek out traps without knowing the full consequences of their use, or the legalities surrounding them. One of the traps used, an older-style leg-hold with teeth, is illegal for use in British Columbia. The other, a cuff-style body-gripping trap, is legal under current regulations.

“There are numerous opportunities to coexist with wildlife, and when animals are inside homes, sheds or businesses, there are professionals with training, equipment and knowledge who can humanely and ethically remove them,” Howie says.

The BC SPCA's Animal Kind program certifies humane wildlife removal companies and is an excellent resource. Additionally, information on coexistence with many species is available at TheFurBearers.com.

Anyone with information regarding these trapping incidents is encouraged to contact the Report All Poachers and Polluters line at 1-877-952-RAPP (7277) or online at <https://forms.gov.bc.ca/environment/rapp/>.

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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 and offer coexistence solutions to communities. They are a registered charity and more can be learned about their educational programs on coexistence at www.TheFurBearers.com.

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