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Pets killed and injured by traps across Canada, data reveals

Wildlife protection charity The Fur-Bearers is sounding the alarm about the dangers of trapping to the public

VICTORIA –Springtime brings Canadians and our families outdoors, but newly released data shows danger lurks for pets across the country. Five years of government data reveals the number of dogs and cats that are captured in traps across Canada.

The Fur-Bearers, a non-partisan wildlife charity founded in 1953, has published the results of research looking into the scale of pets being caught, injured, and killed in traps set for wildlife. Information obtained through freedom of legislation from every province and territory shows that at least 173 pets were caught in traps in Canada from 2017-2021. This figure does not include data from Ontario, and reporting is not mandatory, so the actual number is expected to be far higher.

“Dozens of cats and dogs are being injured and killed by traps every year in Canada, and the data we compiled shows that this problem is only getting worse,” says Aaron Hofman, Director of Policy and Advocacy for The Fur-Bearers. “Companion animals have become the collateral damage of the commercial fur trade, where indiscriminate traps are set in our communities with no warning signs for the public. Governments across Canada need to take immediate action to protect the public from the dangers of trapping.”

The Fur-Bearers is providing numerous recommendations for governments to make changes to trapping practices and regulations. These include mandatory signage for traps, ID tags attached to traps, mandatory setbacks in public areas, and mandatory reporting of domestic animals caught in traps. The Fur-Bearers is also recommending that governments implement systems to track this data and proactively publish reported incidents of domestic animals caught in traps. Many of these updates have been proposed to governments in years past; none have been implemented.

The number of pets reported to be caught in traps by province or territory between 2017-2021 is below:

- British Columbia: 56
- Alberta: 30
- Saskatchewan: 31
- Manitoba: 24
- Ontario: Data unavailable
- Quebec: 12
- New Brunswick: 4
- Nova Scotia: 7
- Prince Edward Island: 6
- Newfoundland: 0
- Yukon: 1
- Northwest Territories: 2
- Nunavut: 0
- Total: 173

The Fur-Bearers is encouraging residents to contact their provincial representatives to call for these common-sense changes to be implemented for the protection of families across the country. More information on how to take action can be found at www.TheFurBearers.com.

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The attached report contains the full data table and an appendix of known media reports of dogs and cats in traps in Canada in recent years.

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