

Traps maim Mission raccoons, leading to two deaths

Body-gripping traps an inhumane solution to wildlife woes

MISSION – Three raccoons suffered in traps placed around a Mission home late last year, leading to complaints to the BC Conservation Officer Service and a reminder from a wildlife charity that trapping is a cruel, ineffective solution to managing any issues.

The Fur-Bearers, a non-partisan wildlife charity founded in 1953 to protect fur-bearing animals, received information from Critter Care Wildlife Society (CCWS) regarding the situation stemming from a November 27, 2023, incident.

According to CCWS, neighbours heard the screams of raccoons caught in traps and called the provincial Report All Poachers and Polluters (RAPP) line; a conservation officer and two wildlife specialists from CCWS attended the scene. Upon arrival, the specialists found as many as 10 traps located on a residential property. All three raccoons were transported to CCWS' facilities where two were humanely euthanized due to the extent of their injuries. The third raccoon is in care and recovering and will hopefully be released. His injuries include significant swelling caused by the trap that led to a laceration opening in the raccoon's right forearm.

"Raccoons are intelligent, social animals who are native to Mission and the Lower Mainland," says Lesley Fox, Executive Director at The Fur-Bearers. "Leg-hold traps cause suffering to any animal caught in them and will not resolve any potential issues being faced by residents. We encourage residents who have concerns about wildlife to visit our website at TheFurBearers.com to learn about wildlife coexistence, the importance of attractant management, and how to find humane, non-lethal removal services should wildlife get into a home."

The BC Conservation Officer Service acknowledged they are investigating the incident. Inquiries regarding this investigation may be directed to the BCCOS.

"The Fur-Bearers remind residents that body-gripping traps are inherently inhumane devices that cause significant harm to any animal who should trigger them, including non-targeted wildlife and pets," says Fox. "Residents concerned about the availability of these devices and the weak regulations surrounding them should contact their MLA."

More information on the harms caused by traps and how to make change is available at TheFurBearers.com.

-30-

Photos of the deceased and injured raccoons are credited to Critter Care Wildlife Society. Interviews are available upon request. Further resources on finding humane wildlife removal are available at TheFurBearers.com; BC residents may visit AnimalKind.ca to find BC SPCA accredited wildlife removal experts.

This press release was updated at 3:45 pm PT on January 11, 2024 to reflect an update to the type of traps used.

CONTACTS:

Lesley Fox
Executive Director, The Fur-Bearers
Lesley@TheFurBearers.com
604-435-1850

Jenna Kuncewicz
Senior Wildlife Supervisor, Critter Care Wildlife Society
604-530-2064