

February 26, 2024

BACKGROUND

Statement provided by Clayton and Ricki Hartley:

"We are completely devastated that this has happened to our livestock guardian dog, Pearl, and are appalled by the lack of transparency and accountability required in the regulations for trapping in British Columbia. We are greatly distressed by the complete disregard for ensuring public safety, which above all else, should be of the utmost importance when lethal and dangerous devices are being set silently in communities by trappers. We hope that Pearl's story will bring awareness to the public safety issues posed by trapping in close proximity to private residences and on public recreation lands, that we all should be able to enjoy without fear.

"Furthermore, we truly believe that trappers should have a legal responsibility to the localities in which they conduct their trapping business. They should facilitate effective communication to inform inhabitants of the area so that people can be empowered to actively safeguard their own well-being and that of their communities, thereby reducing the likelihood of harmful and traumatic accidents like Pearl's.

"As a family who spends a lot of time in these woods near the Halfway River, we can't help but think of how this situation could have been different had it been our young daughter who stepped in a trap and had her leg swallowed instead. We never anticipated that individuals within our community would be so imprudent and believe that those who reside in these areas do not engage in outdoor activities or have guardian dogs (who chase off the very predators the trappers are baiting in), and that there's no legal requirement to inform the public about active trapping in these areas."

Resources From The Fur-Bearers:

- Images and video footage of Pearl before and after her trapping incident are available upon request. Please note some of the images may be distressing to readers/viewers. Credit may be attributed to the Hartley Family.
- Download a pdf of our 2023 report on pets becoming caught in traps in Canada: [Collateral Damage, The Unreported Victims of Wildlife Trapping: Cats and Dogs.](#)
- The Fur-Bearers has created an educational video for the public on how to release pets from commonly used traps in British Columbia, which can be embedded in news stories: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3n45s9ynd3E>

Contact:

Lesley Fox

Executive Director

The Fur-Bearers

604-435-1850

Lesley@TheFurBearers.com