

REWARD: West Van raccoon found dragging trap

Wildlife protection group reminds residents trapping isn't a solution

WEST VANCOUVER – A \$1,000 reward is on the table after a raccoon was found dragging a trap late Sunday night.

Area residents witnessed the raccoon dragging the cuff-style trap through their backyard and contacted emergency services; the BC Conservation Officer Service attended the scene and successfully released the raccoon. While traps may be readily available for purchase, the use of them is restricted and they can cause devastating injuries to wildlife and domestic animals.

“We have seen a number of traps targeting raccoons in recent years throughout Vancouver and the Lower Mainland, many of which were likely set in urban or suburban environments,” says Lesley Fox, Executive Director of The Fur-Bearers, a wildlife protection group based in BC. “It is illegal to set a trap within 200 metres of a dwelling, and traps like this must be checked regularly. We are also reminding residents that traps can and do cause serious harm to wildlife and domestic animals every year; if they are experiencing negative encounters with wildlife on their properties, various practical tools to coexist are available.”

Currently, there are no requirements in British Columbia to post signage when traps are being used, or to provide setbacks from publicly accessible trails and recreation spaces.

The Fur-Bearers is offering a \$1,000 reward to help identify and convict the person(s) responsible for setting this trap. Anyone with information is encouraged to contact the BC COS through the RAPP line at 1-877-952-7277 or at rapp.bc.ca.

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The Fur-Bearers is a non-partisan, charitable organization founded in 1953 to advocate for fur-bearing animals in the wild and in confinement, as well as promoting coexistence solutions with native wildlife in communities. More can be learned about this wildlife protection organization at TheFurBearers.com.

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