



December 24, 2014

EPIDEMIC: Five dogs trapped in one month

Organization pleads with media to report dangers of traps on public trails

VANCOUVER – A national wildlife advocacy group is sounding the alarm bell after learning of two more dogs caught in legal traps on public lands this month.

The Association for the Protection of Fur-Bearing Animals (APFA) attempts to track incidents of domestic dogs and cats being caught in leg-hold, Conibear, snare and body-gripping traps across the country through media reports. Since mid-November, five separate incidents have been recorded.

“We are pleading with the media to warn dog owners from coast to coast,” says Michael Howie, spokesperson for APFA. “Dogs are being killed and maimed in these devices and there are only two ways to end it: to educate pet owners of the dangers and to put a stop to trapping entirely.”

On Monday, December 22, 2014, APFA sent out a media advisory noting that three dogs had been caught in legal and “certified humane” traps in a one-month span. Within 24 hours of issuing that press release, the Association learned of two more incidents – one of which was fatal.

“There are no regulations requiring signage, flags or notification to nearby residents or visitors that trapping is occurring. A relaxing afternoon walk can turn into a living nightmare in seconds – and in the last month, this has happened to Canadian families five times.

“We are asking the media directly to play a role in preventing more tragedy by reporting upon this epidemic and presenting to pet owners the very real dangers of using public trails,” Howie adds. “Unless education can happen on a rapid and vast scale, we know more injuries, deaths and traumas will occur.”

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Photos of dogs, coyotes and other animals injured by these traps, as well as still images of the traps, are available upon request.

Trapped since mid-November:

- [Happy Valley-Goose Bay](#), Newfoundland and Labrador (leg-hold trap severely injured Bella, who required extensive oral surgery as a result);
- [Stirling, Ontario](#) (Conibear killed a mid-sized dog on a popular multi-use trail);
- [Eastern Townships](#), Quebec (Conibear killed a dog on a nature preserve);
- [Wabush Lake](#), Newfoundland and Labrador (leg-hold trap caught, but did not injure a family pet); and,
- Kawarthas, Ontario (Conibear killed a dog on a public access trail).

Fast facts:

- Leg-hold, Conibear, snare and other body-gripping traps are legal for use in every Canadian province and territory.
- The ‘humane’ label affixed to these traps stems from a trade agreement between Canada and the European Union: The Agreement on International Humane Trapping Standards. Severe injuries are permitted by ‘certified humane’ traps with this agreement.
- The number of recreational users of public trails far outweighs the number of registered trappers in Canada.
- There has been no repercussion, fine or charge against any of the trappers in the cases listed as part of this press release.

Since 1953, The Association for the Protection of Fur-Bearing Animals (APFA) have worked to bring an end to cruel trapping methods and the fur industry. APFA also work with communities and municipalities to develop co-existence strategies for preventing and mitigating wildlife conflict. Learn more at FurBearerDefenders.com.

Contact:

Michael Howie

Spokesperson, Association for the Protection of Fur-Bearing Animals

michael@furbearerdefenders.com

905-599-9364
