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Raccoon injured by traps in Vancouver

Second raccoon located in weeks suffering from leg-hold traps, \$1,000 reward offered

VANCOUVER – A local animal advocacy group is demanding action from the Minister of Forest, Lands and Natural Resources following a chain of incidents involving leg-hold traps in urban areas.

On the heels of a case in White Rock, wherein a raccoon had lost one paw to a leg-hold trap and was seen dragging another trap, The Association for the Protection of Fur-Bearing Animals (The Fur-Bearers) has been informed that another raccoon was found in Vancouver suffering from similar injuries.

“We were shocked to learn of the raccoon found in the 400 block of East 11th Avenue this weekend,” says Adrian Nelson of The Fur-Bearers. “These traps are inherently inhumane and cause grievous injuries. And if they’re in an urban area like Vancouver or White Rock, it’s a matter of time before companion animals or children are hurt or killed.”

Steve Thompson, Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resources stated nearly two years ago that he would review existing trapping laws after a number of municipalities began pushing for by-laws to outlaw the use of the devices in their communities. To date, no changes have been announced.

“While the Minister continues to ignore the suffering of our wildlife and the hazards to our pets and children, The Fur-Bearers are offering a \$1,000 reward for information leading to the identification and conviction of the person(s) responsible for setting the traps in Vancouver,” Nelson says. “Municipalities and residents are speaking up – they want these traps gone. We want to ask the Minister: when will you listen?”

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Municipalities that have trap ban by-laws on the books or awaiting Ministry approval include Gibsons, North Saanich, Coquitlam and North Vancouver. A poll by Insights West indicated that 81 per cent of BC residents opposed the killing of animals for their fur.

Photos of the injured raccoon available upon request.

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