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Animals suffering in cruel traps in Peterborough

National wildlife advocacy group asks council to take on issue

HAMILTON – The disturbing discovery of a rabbit suffering in a leg-hold trap should be considered a dire warning to Peterborough’s city council, says a national wildlife advocacy group.

According to news reports, the rabbit was found by an officer of the Peterborough SPCA, who were unable to save the life of the injured animal.

“Traps always have been and always will be inherently inhumane,” says Michael Howie, spokesperson for The Association for the Protection of Fur-Bearing Animals (The Fur-Bearers). “Whether legally or illegally placed, these traps are like landmines to our animals – be they wild or domestic. Municipalities across Canada are taking the initiative to prohibit the use of these cruel devices with by-laws, and it’s time for Peterborough to consider the same.”

The City of Guelph in Ontario, and numerous municipalities in British Columbia including Sechelt, Nanaimo, and White Rock, have taken steps to put by-laws in place to protect their residents. While the control of traps and wildlife is under the guise of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forests, municipalities have the right to manage wildlife and related activities in their borders under the Municipal Act.

“We regularly hear of domestic dogs and cats killed in legally placed traps,” notes Howie. “Thousands of the animals that many of us in Canada love to observe are cruelly held – for over a week in some cases – and the City of Peterborough has it in their power to end this suffering. We hope they do.”

The Fur-Bearers are also offering a \$1,000 reward for information leading to the identification and conviction or fine of the person(s) responsible for setting the illegal trap found by the Peterborough SPCA.

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The Association for the Protection of Fur-Bearing Animals is a national wildlife advocacy organization based in Vancouver. Since 1953, the non-profit group has worked to find alternatives to the use of cruel traps and works regularly with municipalities and landowners to find non-lethal solutions to wildlife conflict.

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