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Non-profit warning Langley residents after second raccoon injured by trap ***Until trapper found, keep dogs on leash, cats in doors, says The Fur-Bearers***

LANGLEY CITY – A second raccoon injured by a trap and found in a Langley neighbourhood has prompted wildlife non-profit The Fur-Bearers to issue a warning to pet owners and families in the area: until the trapper is identified, be cautious.

The Fur-Bearers were informed by Critter Care Wildlife Society that last week a juvenile raccoon was found, both front paws crushed in a Conibear trap. He is the second raccoon found in such a trap in the area; the first raccoon was found with similarly severe injuries earlier in August. Both raccoons were humanely euthanized by the licensed rehabilitators at Critter Care.

“It is appalling that someone is putting out these traps, seeing clearly the devastation they cause local wildlife,” says Michael Howie, spokesperson for The Fur-Bearers. “It is a matter of time before pets or unsuspecting people get injured by them, too.”

Unfortunately, there is little to be done as the province has refused to require posting of warning signs when traps are active in an area and has not allowed municipalities to set by-laws regarding such traps and therefore educate, investigate and enforce when provincial authorities are unable to do so.

“We see at least several pets maimed or killed by these traps every year,” says Howie, in addition to the many native species of wildlife also tortured and killed by traps, set illegally or legally. “The province sees this, too, but has refused the requests of multiple municipalities for change. It is disgusting. Please, if you have a companion pet or family, be aware that at least one person is setting traps with the intent of harming and killing animals in this community. Dogs should be kept on leashes and cats indoors. Please also speak to children about the dangers traps represent and what to do if they find one.”

The Fur-Bearers is increasing their reward for information that leads to identification and conviction of the person(s) responsible to \$1,500. Anyone with information is asked to contact Langley Animal Protection Services at 604-857-5055 or the RAPP line at 1-877-952-RAPP (7277).

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The Association for the Protection of Fur-Bearing Animals (The Fur-Bearers) was founded in British Columbia in 1953. They advocate on behalf of fur-bearing animals in the wild and in confinement and promote coexistence solutions for communities across Canada.

All photos should be attributed to Critter Care Wildlife Society. A graphic content warning is strongly advised.

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