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Trapped wildlife incidents double in two years

Wildlife non-profit demands change from province after two raccoons suffer in urban traps

BRITISH COLUMBIA – An alarming increase in animals suffering in traps has a wildlife non-profit calling on the province to enact immediate change.

The Fur-Bearers, a B.C.-based non-profit society that advocates on behalf of fur-bearing animals in the wild and in confinement is demanding provincial leaders address the horrendous injuries wildlife and pets are suffering from traps, including those in urban areas.

“Wildlife rehabilitators Critter Care Wildlife Society has reported that the number of animals they’ve treated or humanely euthanized due to trap-related injuries has more than doubled in the last two years,” says Michael Howie, spokesperson for The Fur-Bearers. “These traps, which can easily be purchased online or through local and online marketplaces and sales, only accomplish one thing: suffering.”

Langley-based Critter Care Wildlife Society noted they had nine cases of animals injured by traps in 2017, 15 cases in 2018, and so far, 21 cases in 2019 (not including Tom Cat rat traps). These are only cases that are reported to CCWS and does not include incidents outside of their range or domestic animals like dogs and cats who are also injured or killed by traps.

“We are offering rewards of \$1,500 (each) for information that leads to identification and conviction of the person(s) responsible for recent trapping incidents in Port Coquitlam and Richmond, but what the animals really need is for the province to step up,” says Howie. “Every year we’ve asked the province for common sense updates to policy, such as allowing local governments to enact, educate about, and enforce by-laws about traps to curb these incidents, or mandatory signage when traps are being used. And every year goes past with no change, but more individual animals and families suffering. At this point, with all the horrendous injuries we’ve seen and lack of change, it’s hard to believe the province of British Columbia cares about animal cruelty at all.”

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The Fur-Bearers are asking anyone with information relating to trapping incidents in Port Coquitlam and Richmond to contact the RAPP line at 1-877-952-7277.

Attached photos of the raccoon found in Port Coquitlam and humanely euthanized by Critter Care Wildlife Society. It is believed he was dragging the trap for days, which had nearly severed his paw at the wrist. A graphic content warning is strongly advised with this story.

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.

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