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## **Pregnant fox found dragging leg-hold trap**

### ***Province incapable of protecting wildlife, pets: time to ban leg-hold traps***

**BRITISH COLUMBIA** – The harrowing story of a pregnant fox found dragging a potentially illegal leg-hold trap in Houston, B.C., is leading to a call to end the use of the indiscriminate devices province-wide by a wildlife protection group.

The Fur-Bearers, formed in 1953 as The Association for the Protection of Fur-Bearing Animals, was informed of the devastating paw injuries to the fox by Northern Lights Wildlife Society, who are caring for the distressed mother and her three kits. The wildlife rehabilitation centre was contacted by residents who had caught the fox after seeing her drag the trap for hours. Four major bones in her front right paw are broken in an open fracture – the bone and flesh are visible. It is uncertain if she will be able to keep the paw and mother and kits are all being monitored closely.

“The provincial government has shown they are incapable of preventing outrageous acts of cruelty caused by both legal and illegal leg-hold traps,” says Lesley Fox, Executive Director at The Fur-Bearers. “They can point to trapping standards and regulations all they want: the reality is we’re seeing horrific injuries to native wildlife as well as domestic animals like dogs and cats from these traps. As it is the duty of the province to be the stewards of wildlife in the public trust, we are calling on them to finally end the use of these dangerous devices in our province.”

Wildlife rehabilitators regularly report receiving wildlife injured by “legal” or “humane” traps, the provincial government’s own documents reveal that about eight dogs per year are known to die or be injured in traps and the photographic evidence of the destructive power of these devices is well documented – and those are just the incidents that get reported or captured by media.

Over the last several years multiple municipalities have written or requested permission to write bylaws outlawing specific types of traps in their borders due to the danger they represent to wildlife, pets and families. These municipalities include Nanaimo, Sechelt, White Rock and Surrey. The province has not allowed these communities to protect themselves.

“Every day animals are suffering, and to what degree we can’t say because traps are set then left; authorities only investigate traps if there are reports,” adds Fox. “The millions of native animals and families who count a dog or cat as a companion have needs and deserve a life free of this preventable cruelty.”

A petition was created to showcase the number of residents locally and abroad who want British Columbia to ban the leg-hold trap at [www.TheFurBearers.com/banlegholdsBC](http://www.TheFurBearers.com/banlegholdsBC).

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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.

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#### **ADDITIONAL INFO, PHOTOS AND FOI DOCUMENTS:**

According to provincial documents there are fewer than 3,000 licensed trappers in British Columbia (whereas 41% of Canadian households have at least one dog and 38% of Canadian households have at least one cat). <https://www.cahi-icsa.ca/press-releases/latest-canadian-pet-population-figures-released>

Polling by Research Co in November 2019 indicated that 79% of British Columbians oppose killing animals for their fur.  
<https://researchco.ca/2019/11/22/animals-canada/>

Image of the trap (blood and fur still visible): <https://www.TheFurBearers.com/downloads/media/2020-03-31--Fox/Trap%20in%20snow.psd>

The fox's kits: <https://www.TheFurBearers.com/downloads/media/2020-03-31--Fox/Kits.psd>

One fox kit being fed: <https://www.TheFurBearers.com/downloads/media/2020-03-31--Fox/Kit%20being%20fed.psd>

Close up of the injury: <https://www.TheFurBearers.com/downloads/media/2020-03-31--Fox/Injury%20closeup%202.psd>

Close up of the injury: <https://www.TheFurBearers.com/downloads/media/2020-03-31--Fox/Injury%20closeup%201.psd>

The injured fox: <https://www.TheFurBearers.com/downloads/media/2020-03-31--Fox/Fox%20in%20corner.psd>

The injured fox: <https://www.TheFurBearers.com/downloads/media/2020-03-31--Fox/Fox%20in%20carrier.psd>

Summary of trapping licenses in BC via FOI: <https://www.thefurbearers.com/downloads/media/2020-03-31--Fox/FNR-2020-01076-Trapping%20licenses%20BC.pdf>

An average of 8 pets per year were reported as injured or killed by traps via FOI:

<https://www.TheFurBearers.com/downloads/media/2020-03-31--Fox/FNR-2015-51526%20Pets%20data%20Page%203.pdf>

The injury caused by a "padded leg-hold trap" considered humane to a coyote in Abbotsford in 2013:

<https://www.TheFurBearers.com/downloads/media/2020-03-31--Fox/Coyote%20foot%20padded%20trap.JPG>

All photos of the fox and kits attributable to Northern Lights Wildlife Society. Coyote in leg-hold trap attributable to Critter Care Wildlife Society.