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New Release  
For immediate release

## **Advocacy group warns of distributing trend of trapping cruelty**

### *Leg-hold trapping incidents on the rise*

North Vancouver, BC - There has been a series of concerning incidents involving animals, including raccoons and a skunk, found suffering in leg-hold traps. As a result, wildlife protection organization The Fur-Bearers is offering multiple rewards for information leading to the identification and conviction of the person(s) responsible and is once again calling on the BC government to ban leg-hold traps.

These incidents include:

- May 17, Delta - A female raccoon found in a leg-hold trap near 17a Avenue – a block from Beach Grove Park and Beach Grove Elementary school in Delta. Her injuries were gruesome and included a broken paw that was fully 'degloved' and found to be infested by maggots. **Reward offered \$6,000** in part by The Fur-Bearers, Critter Care Wildlife Society and their supporters.
- June 26, Surrey - A lactating mother raccoon was found dragging a leg-hold trap in the 3030 block of 141 St. She was brought into Critter Care Wildlife Society and was humanely euthanized. Her babies were not found. **Reward offered \$1,000.**
- July 9, Vancouver - Skunk found suffering in a leg-hold trap in the 3600 block of Fraser St. The skunk is currently in care at Critter Care Wildlife Society in Langley. **Reward offered: \$1,000.**

Under the law anyone in Canada can order leg-hold and other body-gripping traps online, in stores or at garage sales without a trapping license, identification or registration.

While leg-hold traps are legal across Canada, there are some restrictions related to the species being targeted, the style of trap that can be used and placement. In the cases noted above, it is not clear if these traps were legally set.

Lesley Fox, Executive Director for The Fur-Bearers says, "We have grave concerns about the rise in trapping cruelty. We would also like to remind the public if they are experiencing trouble with animals such as raccoons and skunks to contact a BC SPCA AnimalKind accredited pest control company. Leg-hold traps are cruel, dangerous and should be outlawed completely. The BC government is very aware of our concerns and it's a source of tremendous frustration they have no ability to meaningfully enforce their own regulations."

Fox adds, "Multiple cities including Surrey, White Rock, Sechelt, Nanaimo and Creston have called on the province of BC to give them the authority to ban traps within their jurisdiction. After over 7 years, their pending trapping bylaws are still awaiting approval. Various other trapping considerations and requests have been made

through the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM), which have also largely been ignored. It's time the BC government ban leg-hold traps."

Anyone with information on the trapping cruelty cases noted above is urged to contact the Report All Poachers and Polluters (RAPP) line at 877-952-7277. Information on coexisting with wildlife can be found at [www.TheFurBearers.com](http://www.TheFurBearers.com).

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The Fur-Bearers is a non-profit organization founded in 1953. They advocate on behalf of fur-bearing animals in the wild and in confinement and assist communities in co-existing with wildlife through science-based, in-field solutions, education, and policy.

Contact:

Lesley Fox  
Executive Director  
The Fur-Bearers  
Lesley@thefurbearers.com  
Cell: 778-892-5369