



January 14, 2016

Pets maimed and killed while government “reviews” policies

National wildlife protection group wants simple solutions implemented immediately

VANCOUVER – On the heels of news that another family pet was maimed and nearly killed by a trap, The Association for the Protection of Fur-Bearing Animals (The Fur-Bearers) is demanding that the government take immediate action.

It was reported yesterday that a family dog named Gracie was injured and thought killed by a legally set Conibear trap on a popular multi-use trail. Though Gracie “miraculously” survived the incident, she still suffered greatly as do many other dogs every year in British Columbia.

“The Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resources has stated in documents we obtained through a Freedom of Information Act request that they are aware several family pets are maimed or killed by legally set traps every year,” says Adrian Nelson, Director of Communications for The Fur-Bearers. “We have requested meeting after meeting with Minister Steve Thomson to discuss simple solutions, like increased set-backs from publicly accessible and multi-use recreational trails or roads, increased and required signage, and identification tags for ministry use. But year after year, those meetings are declined, and we sadly await the news that another pet has been killed.”

This suffering will continue until the government and Minister Thomson confront the truth – that trappers are not the only users of Crown land and trails.

“Family pets are dying, simply because their owners want to enjoy the beautiful land that British Columbia is known for,” Nelson said. “We cannot fathom why taking minor steps to increase their safety is so aghast that Minister Thomson and his staff have dragged their heels on this and other issues for several years.”

The Fur-Bearers are calling on all pet and animal lovers to write Minister Thomson and their own MLAs to demand change – and make trails safe for all taxpayers and visitors.

-30-

Images of pets or wildlife in traps, and of traps themselves are available upon request.

CONTACT:

Adrian Nelson

Director of Communication, The Association for the Protection of Fur-Bearing Animals

604-435-1850

adrian@furbearerdefenders.com