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## **Wildlife group outraged by injured raccoon**

### *Non-profit triples reward offered by community to solve cruel mystery*

**OAK BAY** – A severely injured raccoon has caught the attention of a wildlife protection group that is offering to triple the reward offered to find the person responsible for the cruelty inflicted upon the animal.

The Fur-Bearers believe that the injuries are consistent with a leg-hold trap – a device legal throughout British Columbia – and hope that justice can be found.

“This kind of injury is not just painful, but debilitating to a wild animal’s way of life,” says Adrian Nelson, Director of Communications and Wildlife Conflict Manager for The Fur-Bearers. “Whether the injury was caused by a leg-hold trap or some other device, we are standing with the concerned residents of Oak Bay to find out who is responsible.”

The non-profit has committed a \$1,000 reward for information leading to the identification and conviction of the person(s) responsible for the injuries, tripling the amount offered by an anonymous member of the community.

“It is clear that residents of Oak Bay are just as shocked by this incident as we are,” says Nelson. “Body gripping traps like leg-holds can cause a great deal of suffering and pain not only to wildlife, but to domestic animals and people, too. It is imperative that local authorities learn the source of this injury before others occur.”

The Fur-Bearers is asking anyone with information regarding this or related incidents to contact the Oak Bay Police at 250-592-2424.

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The Fur-Bearers was formed in 1953 as The Association for the Protection of Fur-Bearing Animals to protect fur-bearing animals in the wild and in confinement. Today, The Fur-Bearers represents over 50,000 supporters nationwide, many of whom live in British Columbia.

Images of leg-hold traps and animals injured by them are available upon request.

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