



August 23, 2016

Wildlife advocates appalled by trapped skunk found in South Van ***National non-profit offering \$1,000 reward to help catch perpetrator***

VANCOUVER – A skunk is recovering from injuries inflicted by a leg-hold trap, but a national wildlife non-profit is concerned that more of the traps could still be in a South Vancouver neighbourhood. The Association for the Protection of Fur-Bearing Animals (The Fur-Bearers) is now offering a \$1,000 reward to find out who was responsible.

On Sunday, August 21, a couple saw the skunk in their backyard near East 49th Avenue and Fraser Street, dragging the leg-hold trap. Though some provincial restrictions exist for such traps, and this particular model was likely illegal, there are no by-laws in Vancouver prohibiting their use.

“The couple was fortunately able to catch the skunk and transport him to the Wildlife Rescue Association in Burnaby,” says Adrian Nelson, Director of Communications for The Fur-Bearers. “He will likely recover from the injuries he sustained in this inhumane device, but we have no idea if there are more traps in the area, who set them, or why they were set. Until officials are able to ascertain the exact circumstances surrounding this trap, neighbourhood wildlife, cats, dogs, and even children could be at risk.”

The Fur-Bearers are offering \$1,000 to anyone who is able to provide information that leads to the identification and conviction of the person(s) responsible for setting this trap. Anyone with information should contact the Ministry of Environment Report All Poachers and Polluters Line at 877-952-7277. The Fur-Bearers are in communication with the Conservation Officer Service regarding this case.

“The Minister of Forests, Lands, and Natural Resources Operations has, through inaction, blocked several municipal by-laws that would protect wildlife and pets from inhumane devices,” Nelson adds, “but we hope that the City of Vancouver is brave enough to stand up and say that the well-being of animals matter – and join the call for the Ministry to allow local regulations to prevent such abhorrent incidents in the future.”

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Attached images of the leg-hold trap and injured skunk credited to Wildlife Rescue Association of B.C.

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