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Raccoon injured by trap found near popular Abbotsford park *Non-profit warns landowners that traps are cruel and inefficient at preventing conflict*

VANCOUVER – A raccoon whose wrists were crushed and flesh became necrotic in a common trap has prompted a non-profit to warn landowners that such traps are a cruel, inefficient means of preventing conflict on their property.

The Fur-Bearers, a Vancouver-based non-profit that has advocated for fur-bearing animals in the wild and in confinement since 1953, was told of the injuries by Critter Care Wildlife Society. The raccoon was found by a resident stuck by the trap trying to get across a backyard fence along Stoney Creek near Bateman Park. Critter Care's volunteers responded and brought the raccoon in for examination. He had crush injuries on both wrists, and a laceration to the bone on his right side. His right paw was extremely swollen due to restricted blood flow, and his flesh was already showing signs of necrosis. Critter Care humanely euthanized the raccoon.

The origin of the trap is unclear at this time, but it is likely that it was set to manage a “nuisance” situation.

“Trapping is a cruel, temporary solution that will continue in an endless cycle of frustration and suffering,” says Adrian Nelson, wildlife conflict manager for The Fur-Bearers. “Only by embracing co-existence methods that rely on science, long-term viability, and humane treatment of animals, can we see an end to these horrors.”

Removing wildlife from the location of a conflict is a stop-gap measure, as the original cause of the conflict – most often resource availability such as food or access to a den site – remains. In cases when removal is necessary, qualified, humane agencies like AAA Wildlife Control safely get all the animals out, and make sure they can't get back in.

In British Columbia there are no required setbacks from publicly accessible trails or paths, and no requirement for warning signs when traps are utilized.

“Also concerning is that this trap was found in a residential area, near parks where children and pets play,” Nelson says. “Traps are indiscriminate and don't always function as designed. Any animal – be it wildlife or a beloved pet – can wander into these traps and be maimed or killed.”

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Images of the injured raccoon are available upon request, and can be credited to Critter Care Wildlife Society.

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