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Traps cause suffering and don't solve problems with local wildlife

Burnaby residents warned about use of cruel traps after raccoon found wandering with crushed paw

BURNABY – A raccoon chewed off his own paw after it was crushed in a legal trap set in Burnaby last week. The raccoon was found by a resident in the area of Norland Avenue, and recovered by Critter Care Wildlife Society.

His paw was caught in a cuff-style trap, which he was found dragging with him. The trap was removed, and his paw was determined to be crushed. Critter Care's staff and volunteers provided pain medication and intended to take the adult male raccoon for x-rays the following morning. Despite the pain medication, he chewed off his foot overnight and was subsequently humanely euthanized.

"Residents need to know that traps like this cause suffering and don't resolve conflicts with wildlife," says Adrian Nelson, Wildlife Conflict Manager for non-profit The Fur-Bearers. "Companies who can safely and humanely remove wildlife from properties do exist. Living with wildlife and preventing conflict is possible without the use of inherently inhumane traps."

The Fur-Bearers recommend residents who may need wildlife removed from homes or properties contact one of the certified companies from the BC SPCA's AnimalKind program, or ask potential companies for referrals, information on how they remove wildlife, and what type of traps they may or may not use.

"An innocent animal suffered deeply because of a single trap in the Burnaby community. There is no need for that, and we hope residents will make use of humane options to co-exist with wildlife in the future."

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Photos provided by Critter Care Wildlife Society. Information on living with wildlife can be found at TheFurBearers.com.

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