



**Ontario Fur Managers Federation**

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**May 26, 2014**

**Chair and Members,  
Licensing and Standards Committee**

**Re: LS27.2 Feasibility of Licensing Wildlife Control Operators**

**Dear Chair and Members of Licensing and Standards Committee,**

**On behalf of the Ontario Fur Managers Federation, we would like to thank you for allowing us the opportunity to speak to you regarding this matter. We would ask that as you consider your approach in addressing the issues around Nuisance Animal Control that health and safety of children and adults in Toronto be given the first consideration. We also ask that you do not ban any proven, tested, humane or internationally approved devices from the wildlife agent's choice in making a responsible decision or best method in handling a nuisance situation.**

**We would like to speak to the issue of safety for humans living in Toronto. We know that Toronto has many species of wildlife and furbearers that create conflicts with humans. Many of these species carry diseases that are harmful and can be deadly to humans in some instances. We would like to speak specifically about raccoons at this point but by doing so, we do not preference a specie or disease over another. Toronto is now being referenced as the "Raccoon capital of the world" first referenced in the Toronto Sun (Woloshyn, 2011) and again in Truth about Fur (Ballentine, 2014). Both articles state "the raccoon population in Toronto is as high as 150 per square kilometers, mostly in neighbourhoods, not parks". Raccoons carry several diseases that are harmful and potentially deadly to humans as per an article titled Deadly Diseases Spread by Raccoons (Newski, 2012). "We would like to focus on Toxocariasis (Round Worm) which in Canada 62% of raccoons carry this parasite. Roundworms usually do not destroy extensive amounts of human tissue. The greatest damage is done by the**

**immune system's reaction to the round worms, destroying both the worms and surrounding tissues with inflammation. Two alarming cases were reported in Canada in early 2012. A baby boy in Hamilton, ON developed seizures at the age of five months. By the age of fourteen months, he was legally blind and suffered profound neurological issues. Public officials determined that raccoon feces found in the yard was infected with roundworm eggs. The parents stated the child was not allowed to play outside, officials determined that the raccoon parasite had been brought into the house on the fur of the dog. The other alarming case in 2012 was an elderly woman in Vancouver who died of complications of a condition. Her doctor had diagnosed her with Alzheimer's disease. Autopsy found that her brain had several visible roundworm larvae. We point out the health issue and disease not as an emotional fear tactic, but to show the seriousness of the issue of how to deal and handle wildlife" (Dobrynewski, 2012).**

**We hope that the committee understands that relocating wildlife is not always the proper or only method with a population that is growing in numbers. If left unmanaged the potential for an outbreak of a disease like Distemper, Rabies, Toxocariasis would result in more children and adults becoming infected and seriously ill. Relocating can be and is an option. However, in some instances the only option for human safety and management is lethal or euthanasia. We would like to reference the Fur Institute of Canada Document About Urban Wildlife Conflict. "The Canadian Federation of Humane Societies, the World Wildlife Fund, and most major animal protection and conservation organizations agree that relocation is not always the best course of action."**

**We would also like to address the devices and traps that your committee has been asked to ban since the March 18, 2014 Licensing Committee meeting. We would like to point out that Since 1983 Canada and the Provinces jointly invested nearly \$58 million in trap research by testing and development of humane traps and methods. This testing and research has not only been carried out for sustainable humane furbearer trapping methods but also for humane nuisance wildlife control methods. Canada has been the leader in this Global effort and is the only Country that is in compliance with the European Union's "Agreement on International Humane Trapping Standards". We question why your committee feels that they have to spend time and money on this when it has already been developed and is recognized Internationally. This testing has not only been carried out on foothold traps, body gripping traps, but also cage, box traps and encapsulating traps. All these devices have had to meet rigorous testing and standards for humaneness and wellness of the specific specie they are used for before being certified. These traps also have to be approved, regulated and legislated by the jurisdiction they will be used in. We would like to ask the committee why they would have confidence in endorsing certain devices that**

**have not had any testing, certification or meet any International standards.**

**The OFMF recognizes the need to protect the constituents in the Wards in Toronto and the need to be protected against fraudulent, untrained wildlife operators. Our members have taken a forty hour mandatory training course sanctioned and certified by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. They are trained in trapping fur bearers for fur harvesting and management purposes, as well as live trapping and removal of nuisance animals. This course is a hands-on course with actual field work and setting of devices. The class room time focuses on the biology, habitat and tendencies of species. OFMF members are professionally trained, licensed, experienced and carry five million third party liability insurance. As per the article Truth about fur, there is no shortage of “pest control” companies in the raccoon capital of the world. Their services invariably involve setting cage traps to capture, move and release problem animals. Unlike licensed trappers, people working for these companies do not require training in the use of humane certified traps. Cage traps can be cruel when misused. (Ballentine ,2014). In dealing with nuisance wildlife, our members will consider the range of options that could and should be used in certain situations.**

**The OFMF would like to offer your committee some options to help you strike a balance in managing wildlife in the City of Toronto. We would be more than willing to work with you and your staff in contacting these professional agents to help with your needs. Wildlife control does not have to be lethal. In some situations, live traps and humane traps can be used to capture the nuisance or problem wildlife. Relocation is an option that can be used; however, there are regulations on how far wildlife can be transported. In Ontario the relocation of wildlife can only be within a 1 km radius of where the animal was caught. When trapping in urban areas, we recommend using non -lethal humane trapping devices so that domestic or non – target species are unharmed. We want to be clear that some animals require a lethal response. In these circumstances the animal can be removed in live traps and humanely dispatched or euthanatized in another location. Traps and trapping procedures in Ontario are among the highest standards in North America. Trappers have to use humane traps that have been certified and meet the Agreement on International Humane Trapping Standards (AIHTS). We mention this not only to make you aware of the requirements, but to dismiss the myths that the traps used in Ontario cause needless pain and suffering. As per the article, Truth about Fur Blog, “anti-trapping activists often complain that trappers are only interested in using lethal methods to control urban wildlife. My own experience shows that nothing could be further from the truth”( Ballentine (2014).**

**In closing we hope that before you pass a motion concerning Problem or Nuisance Wildlife Control Operators, you would accept our offer to meet with you and discuss options to train individuals that want to provide this service in Toronto. OFMF would also like your Committee to consider that fees and cost to this program that will ultimately be passed onto the individuals living in Toronto that require nuisance wildlife to be removed. If the costs and fees for removal of wildlife are too cost prohibitive and unaffordable to the individual needing this service, they will handle the problem with their own methods that would not be humane. This would be counterproductive to your Committee efforts and cause the same problems that have led Toronto to the development of LS27.2. There is already a proven training program in Ontario that works.**

**The OFMF would like to suggest three Recommendations that your committee incorporate as requirements for Nuisance Animal Control in Toronto.**

- 1. That the applicant provide satisfactory proof or documentation and that they have a valid Ontario trapper's licence/ proof that he/she has successfully completed the Fur Harvest, Fur Management Conservation Course.**
- 2. That the applicant provide proof of a valid outdoors card with a small game license//Possession Acquisition Licence.**
- 3. That the applicant does not have any convictions of cruelty to animal offences.**

**Please do not hesitate to contact us for further information or to have us meet with your Committee.**

**Sincerely;**



**Robin Horwath  
General Manager**



**Bill Davies  
OFMF Vp Southern  
Region**



**Scott Sears  
OFMF Director  
7A**

**References**

**Toronto, Raccoon capital of the world, Ted Woloshyn (2011)**

**Truth about Fur "How a trapper's knowledge solved my urban pest problem, Lesley Ballentine (2014)**

**Deadly Diseases Spread by Raccoons, Mark Dobrynewski (2012)**

**Fur Institute of Canada, About Urban Wildlife Conflict**

# Toronto, raccoon capital of the world: Woloshyn

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**SUN**

BY TED WOLOSHYN, TORONTO SUN

FIRST POSTED: SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 05, 2011 03:47 AM EST

They are cute, disgusting, generally passive, extremely adaptable and we all have a ton of them. So many, that Toronto is now the raccoon capital of the world.

Producer and director Susan K. Fleming spent seven months following scientists researching raccoon life in the downtown core.

With high-definition, infrared cameras they studied a family of raccoons and discovered that as much we despise the mess they create, we may be our own worst enemy in the fight against the mammals with the masked eyes.

Fleming's film, airing on CBC's *The Nature of Things* at 8 p.m., Feb. 24, asks whether in an effort to outwit raccoons, we are in fact pushing their brain development and altering their future.

Essentially, the more we try to trick them, the harder they work at overcoming those obstacles.

Although their eyesight is weak, they follow their noses and are incredibly skilled with their hands, which have huge receptors.

That would explain why that "animal proof" compost bin lies open with egg shells strewn all over your driveway on garbage days. These animals could probably out-text a teenager.

They are also much fatter than their country cousins, but what would you expect when they eat our garbage? City life has changed raccoons to the point where the film shows them walking past food as if to say, "No thanks I'm stuffed."

Country raccoons have to hunt for frogs and rodents while avoiding predators like foxes and coyotes. Consequently, they live a shorter life than the average three-to-five years enjoyed by city dwellers.

But that sedentary lifestyle and poor diet has led to increases in heart disease and diabetes.

"They like living with us and thanks to the vast amounts of food available, they have become less territorial," said Fleming.

What effect did the garbage strike two years ago have?

"There was a noticeable increase in population, but that was followed by distemper this past summer," she explained.

The little weasels probably texted their friends out of town to come for a free buffet.

Much to my surprise, raccoons came to North America from the tropics and sub-tropics. Today, in downtown Toronto, there are up to 150 raccoons per square kilometre, mostly in neighbourhoods, not parks.

If you plan on getting rid of them by destroying their homes, don't bother. Raccoons usually have 10 to 20 homes. Eat your heart out, Madonna.

Should you catch one and take it up to your cottage to release it into the wild, it probably won't survive. The same thing will happen if you bring one home.


But why would you? Japan did years ago. Thinking they were cute, they imported 1,500 babies from North America, but their feces and urine started rotting structures so now they are banned.

Because they are nocturnal creatures, most of us are unfamiliar with what they do while we sleep.

Raccoon Nation took their cameras down dark alleys, into buildings and high up trees, where dens are filled with kits, then watched as young raccoons negotiated their way down.

Personally I think they wait until we're asleep and laugh at us from the trees while they scarf down their compost-bin dinners with those thieving little hands.

Woloshyn hosts Saturday's with Ted from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Newstalk 1010

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## How a trapper's knowledge solved my urban pest problem

May 01



By Leslie Ballentine, specialist in critical communications and animal issues management

## 7

Wildlife experts say there are 20 times more raccoons sharing human habitation space in North America than 70 years ago. In Toronto, where I live, this urban pest reportedly numbers up to 150 per square kilometre, mostly in residential neighbourhoods, not parks and ravines.

I haven't counted for myself, but these numbers seem credible. As a resident of the "raccoon capital of the world", I live in close quarters with these pesky masked bandits.

I have been cleaning up the aftermath of garbage bin raids since childhood. On more than one occasion I've had to shoo a well-fed raccoon away from the pet dish and out of my house! Battling and fixing their destruction of home and garden has cost me more time and money than I care to remember. And I learned long ago that raccoons cannot be toilet trained, so I have grown accustomed to scooping the poop left on my deck most summer mornings.

Toronto's raccoon policy, like that of the state of Ontario, is live-and-let-live. The city suggests that homeowners discourage nocturnal visits by keeping trash locked up and "raccoon proofing" fruit and vegetable gardens, which I do. But when I discovered last spring that my eaves were being used for a maternity den, it was time to seek professional advice – so I tracked down a licenced trapper.



### Trappers understand urban pests

Of course, there is no shortage of "pest control" companies in the raccoon capital of the world. Their services invariably involve setting cage traps to capture, move and release problem animals. Unlike licenced trappers, however, people working for these companies do not require training in the use of humane-certified traps. Yes, even cage traps can be cruel when misused.



Over the years, I have heard some real horror stories about these services. One particularly gruesome tale involved bear spray (pepper spray to most of us) that nearly blinded the unfortunate raccoon.

I am not saying that all these companies follow bad practices, but I prefer to get my advice from the best experts available. So that's where I went.

All I wanted was the name of a reputable nuisance-wildlife control company. What the trapper provided instead was a relatively easy solution that involved no traps at all. No raccoons were stressed in the process — although my acrophobic husband was required to climb a ladder several times.



The consultation began with a lesson in "Raccoon Behaviour 101". The trapper explained that a mother raccoon will usually have 2-3 den sites. Persuading unwanted tenants to leave is much easier when they have somewhere else to go!

He also explained that, once the cubs are a few weeks old, the whole family will leave their den as a group to get water every day. So, following the trapper's instructions, we covered the entry hole under our roof with a piece of loose cardboard. When the cardboard was moved, we'd know they had all left to get a drink. Then — using screws, not nails that raccoons can pry out — we boarded up the hole before they returned. It worked like a charm. My unwanted house guests simply moved (hopefully not to someone else's house) and my problem was solved.

Anti-trapping activists often complain that trappers are only interested in using lethal methods to control urban wildlife. My own experience shows that nothing could be further from the truth.

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Posted by [Leslie Ballentine](#), [specialist in critical communications and animal issues management activists](#), [anti-trapping](#), [city](#), [masked bandit](#), [nuisance-wildlife](#), [pest control](#), [raccoons](#), [Toronto](#), [trapping](#), [truth](#), [urban pests](#), [urban wildlife](#), [wild fur](#), [wildlife](#), [wildlife conflict](#), [Wildlife experts](#) [Permalink](#)  
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One Response to How a trapper's knowledge solved my urban pest problem

## Deadly Diseases Spread by Raccoons

MARCH 14, 2012 BY [MARK DOBRYNIEWSKI](#)[LEAVE A COMMENT](#)Like { 19 }Tweet { 2 }g+1 { 0 }

Toxocariasis is the increasingly common and potentially deadly disease that most of us have never heard of. About 6% of Americans have been exposed to the roundworms that cause this disease, with highest rates of infection in the southeastern United States and Puerto Rico. Up to 20% of Dutch people, up to 39% of Czechs, 40% of Brazilians, and 90% of Nepalese carry antibodies formed after exposure to the parasites. Two alarming cases were reported in Canada in early 2012.

A bouncing baby boy in Hamilton, Ontario, developed seizures at the age of five months. By the age of fourteen months he was legally blind and suffered profound neurological issues. His parents told doctors that their yard was infested with [raccoons](#), but that he was not allowed to play outside. When public officials determined that raccoon feces found in the yard was infected with roundworm eggs, they concluded that the raccoon parasite had been brought into the house on the fur of the dog.

An elderly woman in Vancouver died of complications of a condition her doctors had diagnosed as Alzheimer's disease. Autopsy found that her brain had several visible roundworm larvae.

In some parts of the world, notably in Germany, up to 70% of raccoons carry roundworms. In Canada, up to 62% of raccoons carry the parasites. Raccoons themselves usually are not made especially sick by the infection, but the worms release eggs into raccoon feces. The scat has to be mixed with soil and the eggs have to remain in the soil for at least two weeks before they become infectious to humans. By the time the roundworms are ready to infect a human host, evidence of defecation may not be visible. Then a pet rolls in the dirt, a young child eats dirt or puts fingers in the mouth after playing in the dirt, or an older child or adult works with the dirt and eats without washing hands first.

Roundworm eggs survive stomach acid and enter the body through the hepatic portal vein that leads from the small intestine to the liver. Some of the eggs hatch in the liver. Some larvae travel to the lungs, climb up to the throat, and catch a ride with food to be expelled with feces. Some larvae travel to the eyes, and other travel to the brain.

Roundworms usually do not destroy extensive amounts of human tissue. The greatest damage is done by the immune system's reaction to the roundworms, destroying both the worms and surrounding tissues with inflammation. When only small numbers of roundworms establish themselves in the body, the only reaction may be an increased tendency for allergies and asthma. Wheezing is a common early sign of roundworm infection. Up to 70% of people in the United States who have chronic hives have been exposed to roundworms.

It is relatively easy to get rid of roundworms if they are detected early. It is almost impossible to get rid of roundworms if they are detected more than two weeks after they are transported into the body. The simple fact is that if you live in an area where there are raccoons, you must wash your hands after

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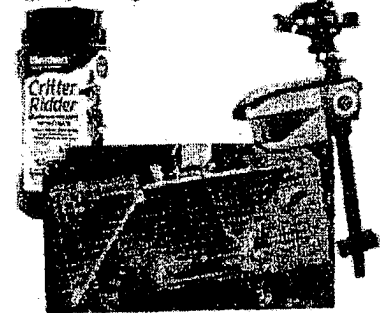


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handling soil. And roundworms are not the most deadly disease the raccoons transmit.

## Rabies from Raccoons

Rabies is viral infection of the central nervous system and brain that can be prevented but that almost never can be treated. Only two people have survived rabies, and they spent weeks undergoing heroic medical measures. When a person is exposed to the rabies virus, it travels up the peripheral nerves at a rate of 12 to 25 mm (1/2 to 1 inch) per day. When the virus reaches the spinal cord, it travels to the brain at a rate of 200 to 400 mm (8 to 16 inches) per day. It causes the release of toxins that produce behavioral changes and then cause death through extreme inflammation of the brain.

Raccoons also catch rabies. Unlike dogs, raccoons may be aggressive when they are not infected but friendly when they are infected. Raccoons continue to have good coordination during the early stages of rabies; a raccoon that is staggering around is more likely to be suffering distemper.

In the southeastern United States, especially in the states of Florida and Georgia, no animal is more likely to carry rabies than raccoons. The virus has been spreading northward and westward from Florida among raccoons for nearly 40 years. It has reached New England in the United States and Ontario in Canada, although it is not yet found in raccoons in Louisiana. (In the rest of the United States and Canada, rabies is most often transmitted by dogs, foxes, coyotes, and wolves. Texas and Mexico also have large populations of rabid bats and small numbers of rabid stray cats. The only rodent that lives long enough after catching rabies to transmit the infection to a human being is the groundhog.) Although there are only two confirmed human deaths from rabies transmitted by a raccoon bite, raccoons serve as a reservoir of the virus that can infect dogs.

If you are bitten by a raccoon you must seek medical attention. Rabies shots may be necessary. There are three shots of vaccine given approximately every other day that stimulate the immune system to fight the virus. If you do not take the shots, you may die. Although the medication for the full course of treatment costs around \$11,000 in the United States, if you do not have insurance coverage, you will be given the vaccine at no charge.

## Raccoons and Leptospirosis

Another disease transmitted by raccoons is leptospirosis, a bacterial infection that initially causes symptoms similar to flu. In 90% of cases, there is recovery after initial symptoms. In about 10% of cases, there is a brief period of remission, and then the infection attacks the liver and the kidneys. The kidneys lose their ability to regulate acid-base balance, and infection in the liver may cause jaundice. About 20 days after exposure, the disease may cause inflammation of the heart and brain.

Raccoons release leptospirosis bacteria with their urine. As long as the bacterium is in contact with water, it remains viable. Dogs most commonly contract the disease by lapping up water from puddles into which raccoons have urinated. The dog then transmits the disease to the humans in the household. Signs a dog has been infected are lethargy, yellow eyes, and dark urine.

If your dog shows possible symptoms of leptospirosis and you then develop flu-like symptoms of your own, especially in the summer, you should see a doctor for diagnosis. Be sure to mention your dog's symptoms as well as your own.

## Raccoons and Lyme Disease

Raccoons may also carry the ticks that carry Lyme disease. They are most likely to acquire these ticks in areas that have high grass near trees. Although there are reports of Lyme disease in almost all of the cold-winter areas of North America and Europe, cases tend to occur in clusters. In the United States, 95% of cases occur in the states of Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Wisconsin.

## Raccoons and Tularemia

Tularemia is a plague-like disease that is most common in the "tules," marshy areas with many reeds and cattails. Raccoons acquire it when they eat small rodents and jackrabbits. Humans can contract

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this bacterial disease by handling the carcasses of infected raccoons.

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Tularemia transmitted by a raccoon is most likely to cause an infection that leaves the tip of the thumb or the tips of a finger swollen, black, and blue. Rubbing the eyes can spread the germ and cause painful swelling of the eye and conjunctivitis. In rare instances, the infection can cause much more serious consequences. The best way to avoid contracting tularemia is to be sure to wear gloves when handling dead raccoons, especially if you have cuts or abrasions on your hands.

## Raccoons and Mites

Raccoons can transmit the mites that cause mange and ear problems to dogs and cats by direct physical contact.

## Raccoons and Lungworms

Raccoons carry the lungworm *Crenosoma glabiei*, which can be contracted by malnourished people who eat raccoon meat. Either preparing the meat or eating rare raccoon meat can transmit the parasite.

## Raccoons, E. coli, and Salmonella



Many foods we buy at the supermarket are contaminated with small numbers of E. coli and/or Salmonella bacteria. As long as the food is eaten right away or stored in the refrigerator, the small numbers of bacteria on the food are dissolved in the acid of our stomachs and we don't get sick. Food we throw into the garbage, however, can grow enormous numbers of the microorganisms that cause food poisoning. Raccoons can eat spoiled food with minimal consequences because they have very short digestive tracts. Their feces, however, can carry enormous numbers of bacteria.

## Raccoons and Listeriosis

In rare instances, elderly people and people who have compromised immune systems can acquire infection with the bacterium *Listeria monocytogenes* from raccoons. The initial signs of infection are flu-like joint pain, lower back pain, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, and fatigue. Women of reproductive age can pass the infection to their children, causing serious neurological problems in newborns. While it is possible to catch listeriosis from raccoons, the disease is far more often acquired from infected food.

Raccoons transmit many dangerous diseases to humans and their pets. The only safe way to handle a raccoon, dead or alive, is with gloves that are thick enough to prevent bites and scratches. It is also essential handle raccoon traps with gloves.

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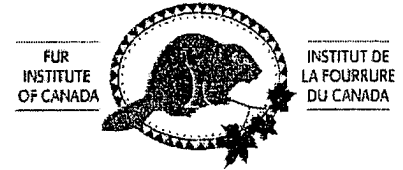
Ten tips to help you control Raccoons, which have become a pest in your home or garden. There is a lot of good info, which tells what not to do as well as things to do to get rid of your pest.

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## Fur Institute of Canada

# About Urban Wildlife Conflict



Wild animals are a natural and important part of local ecosystems. Many wildlife species populations have increased in recent years, and moved into urban areas. This has resulted in ever increasing conflict between humans and wildlife across Canada, and around the world. The Fur Institute of Canada advocates for responsible and professional responses to this conflict.

### Why control urban wildlife?

Animals are quick to adapt to urban or semi-urban settings where they can easily multiply.

Too many animals in an area can cause problems. Reducing wildlife populations helps reduce the damage they cause through flooding, killing pets or livestock, and public health risks such as rabies or giardiasis.

Prevention is the first line of defense. However, further measures may be necessary in the case of human safety risks (rabies, coyote attacks), habitat destruction (beaver damage) or endangerment to other wildlife.

### Why use traps?

A variety of options currently exist for dealing with problem wildlife. These include poisons, noise and light deterrents, altering habitats, introducing predators, or capturing.

Capturing (trapping) problem animals is usually the most effective, ethical and sustainable option.

There are different types of traps but not all are useful in all circumstances.

Many municipalities that have trapping by-laws make exceptions for farmers, homeowners, and licensed trappers.

### are all traps the same?

There are three categories of traps which are approved for

capturing specific species, or for use in different settings or for different purposes.

1. Modified restraining traps (such as the padded soft-catch or laminated foot-hold traps) hold an animal without causing undue injury. They are specially designed to capture terrestrial species such as coyote and raccoon and they comply with the welfare requirements of the Agreement on International Humane Trapping Standards (AIHTS).
2. Quick killing traps, such as the conibear trap, are designed to render a rapid death to the target animal.
3. Box or cage traps are used for capturing wildlife in urban/suburban areas where there may be a risk of capturing curious unleashed pets.

### **How do trappers prevent or minimize harm caused to trapped animals?**

Old style steel-jawed leg hold traps of the past have been replaced with padded and laminated AIHTS certified devices today. The addition of swivels now provides more freedom of movement for captured animals.

They are also effective for trapping certain animals that are being captured for research or reintroduction programs.

Quick killing traps must meet prescribed species-specific welfare limits, to produce rapid onset of unconsciousness and insensibility of animals. These limits have been determined by scientific research to provide a humane death for the species they are designed for. The AIHTS process is supported by the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association.

In most of Canada it is a requirement that licenced trappers check traps at least daily. Violation of provincial/ territorial ethical trapping regulations is subject to fines and penalties.



### **How do trappers avoid capturing unintended animals?**

Most restraining and rapid kill traps are species specific. How a trap is set and located is determined by species-based animal behaviour. This reduces the likelihood of accidental capture of non-target animals.

Non-target animals caught in modern foothold and cage traps can usually be released unharmed in the rare instance one is captured.

### **Why not just relocate unwanted wildlife?**

Although relocation has been successful for some species such as bear and elk, it is relatively ineffective for other species. Often, animals will simply try to return to their original locations.

Animals that have been relocated may end up disrupting their new ecosystem or causing many of the same problems as before. Relocation may unfortunately result in death for introduced animals due to stress, starvation, or hostile encounters with resident member species.

Furthermore, relocating animals increases the risk of spreading diseases such as rabies, mange, distemper. Relocation is sometimes not possible due to cost or a lack of appropriate habitat available.

The Canadian Federation of Humane Societies, the World Wildlife Fund, and most major animal protection and conservation organizations agree that relocation is not always the best course of action.

For all these reasons, many jurisdictions now limit or prohibit the relocation of wildlife unless for special purposes such as well supervised conservation work with threatened and endangered species.

### **How are public safety hazards minimized?**

Attacks to pets and people, by a variety of furbearing species such as coyotes and bears, is becoming more common in urban areas.

Harm to the public caused by traps is an infrequent occurrence and generally associated with illegal trapping practices or risky human behaviour.

Every Canadian province is mandated to adhere to the requirements of the Agreement on International Humane Trapping Standards, regardless of the purpose for which the traps are used. Urban wildlife trapping is governed by provincial/territorial regulations and as appropriate, municipal by-laws, which incorporate rules on safe use of trapping devices.

Minimum set-back requirements for placement of traps on public lands are included in provincial/territorial regulations, and most public spaces post signage when urban trapping is occurring.

Box or cage traps are mainly used for capturing wildlife in urban/suburban areas where there may be a risk of capturing curious unleashed pets.

Use of qualified licenced trappers ensures traps are used safely and in accordance with rules and regulations.

### **What about the cost to municipalities and taxpayers?**

Regulated trapping is cost effective. Furbearing animals cause significant costs annually in flood damage and livestock killing, and pose a risk to public health and safety. Taxpayers ultimately pay for such costs.

Trapping is one wildlife management option used to prevent or to stop such damage at little or no cost to taxpayers. Without trapping, municipal and provincial taxes would need to increase to pay for alternative solutions.

### **Haven't other countries banned trapping?**

While several European countries no longer permit trapping animals for their fur, trapping for other purposes still occurs. For example, European countries collectively trap five times more wild fur animals, such as muskrats, coypu, fox and raccoon dog for 'nuisance' or 'pest' control than Canadian trappers do for fur. Unfortunately, these laws mean animals are not allowed to be used and are disposed

of as waste.

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