

TO: CHAIR AND MEMBERS
SUSTAINABLE CITY ADVISORY
COMMITTEE

DATE: 2018 August 28

FROM: DIRECTOR ENGINEERING

**SUBJECT: CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE
PROTECTION OF FUR-BEARING ANIMALS**

PURPOSE: To respond to the Committee's request to review and report on the correspondence from the Association for Protection of Fur-Bearing Animals.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. **THAT** the Committee receive this report for information.

REPORT

1.0 INTRODUCTION

On 2018 June 12, the Sustainable City Advisory Committee received correspondence from The Association for the Protection of Fur-Bearing Animals regarding the use of a cuff-trap in Burnaby. The Association requested that consideration be given to a bylaw setting out additional rules for the use of such traps in the community.

Arising from discussion, the Committee adopted a motion that the correspondence be referred to staff for review and preparation of a report for information. This report responds to that request, and summarizes wildlife management responsibility and trapping regulations within the provincial context.

2.0 DISCUSSION

2.1 Provincial Regulation

In BC, hunting and trapping is managed, regulated and enforced by the BC Ministry of Environment under the Wildlife Act, and the Fur Management Program. Trappers are regulated provincially and licenced as part of this program. Trappers are required to follow provincial standards, legislation and regulations and to complete the BC Trapper Education course.

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In BC, wildlife can be trapped to provide relief from nuisance situations by all landowners, managers, renters or occupiers of all lands. Wildlife can only be trapped by a licensed trapper. According to the Agreement on International Humane Trapping Standards (AIHTS) to which Canada is party, all wildlife must be humanely and lawfully trapped. The AIHTS evaluates traps for specific species on an ongoing basis. Traps must meet performance thresholds to be eligible for certification. Since the AIHTS came into effect in 1999, BC has made numerous regulatory changes to ensure only certified traps are considered legal for those species listed in the AIHTS.

According to the BC Trapping Regulations, trapping is not permitted on private property without a trapping licence and without the written permission of the property owner. In addition, there are restrictions on the types and sizes of traps that can be used where traps are used within 200 metres of a residence.

2.2 Burnaby Bylaw

In the City of Burnaby, trapping is not permitted on Park property according to the Burnaby Parks Regulation Bylaw 1979, Section 4:

No person shall molest, disturb, frighten, injure, trap or snare any bird or animal, or fish in any lake or stream in any park without the special permission of the Administrator.

This bylaw language is common in municipal Parks bylaws throughout the lower mainland and in Metro Vancouver Regional Parks.

The City of Burnaby manages wildlife in a limited context related to health and safety, and impacts to City infrastructure.

2.3 Public Education

The Conservation Officer Service and the British Columbia Conservation Foundation have developed a public educational program called WildSafeBC. This program provides online resources as well as downloadable brochures on co-existing with wildlife. An example of one of these brochures is included as an *attachment*. A link to wildsafebc.com is available on the City of Burnaby website.

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3.0 CONCLUSION

The correspondence from The Association for the Protection of Fur-Bearing Animals requested that consideration be given to a bylaw setting out additional rules for the use of traps in Burnaby. As outlined in Section 2, trapping regulation, licencing and enforcement as well as education is managed by the BC Ministry of Environment under the Wildlife Act and these regulations are updated to conform to AIHTS standards. As such, it is not recommended that Burnaby pursue any additional bylaws.



Leon A. Gous. P.Eng., MBA
DIRECTOR ENGINEERING

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Attachment

Copied to: City Manager
Director Corporate Services
Director Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services
Director Planning and Building
City Clerk

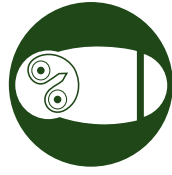


HUMAN-RACCOON CONFLICTS

- Raccoons are normally shy, nocturnal animals but can become habituated to humans and our pets.
- Raccoons can cause significant damage to gardens, buildings, crops, and livestock in their search for food and denning sites.
- Some people feed raccoons under the mistaken idea that this helps the raccoons. Food-conditioned and human habituated raccoons become bolder around humans and are then far more likely to come into conflict.
- While raccoons have the potential to carry rabies, there have been no cases of rabies found in raccoons in BC.
- Raccoons can carry a roundworm parasite that is potentially dangerous to humans and care should be taken in dealing with feces left by raccoons.
- Children should be taught not to approach any wildlife, as serious bites and scratches may result from an encounter with a raccoon.



British Columbia Conservation Foundation



The BC Conservation Foundation is a not-for-profit, registered charity that has been working in BC since 1969. To learn more about our organization please visit us at

www.bccf.com

WildSafeBC is funded through partnerships throughout BC.

Core funding is made possible through the

BC Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy.

To report wildlife in conflict contact the Conservation Officer Service:

1.877.952.7277



Ministry of
Environment and
Climate Change Strategy

www.wildsafebc.com

Version 3.0 - 2018

cover photo by Peter Sulzle

RACCOON



British Columbia Conservation Foundation





MANAGE YOUR ATTRACTANTS

Since raccoons can cause significant damage to buildings and gardens in their search for food, it is best to ensure they do not become comfortable in your yard.

1. **Keep all garbage securely stored** until the day of collection. Placing garbage at the curb before collection day is just inviting trouble with wildlife.
2. **Feed pets indoors**, or if fed outdoors, take in any feed that is not immediately eaten.
3. **Take birdfeeders down until winter.** Birdfeeders can attract raccoons. If raccoons are present in the winter, take birdfeeders in at night.
4. **Keep pet doors locked at night.** Raccoons will enter homes if they feel they can get a meal on the other side of a pet door.
5. **Prevent raccoons from denning inside your house** or outbuildings by sealing up any holes or potential entrances. This is best done before March, or after August, to avoid separating family units that may already be inside.
6. **Never feed raccoons** even though you may think you are helping them out. Raccoons have evolved to live without our help and feeding just leads to conflict.
7. **Keep barbecue grills and grease traps clean** as raccoons will quickly key in on these high calorie food sources.



RACCOON SAFETY

Raccoons can become aggressive towards humans if cornered or handled. Given their small size, they do not pose a serious threat but are capable of inflicting minor injuries.

- If approached by a raccoon, scare it away by yelling, clapping or making noise.
- Keep small pets inside, especially at night. Cats and small dogs can be seriously injured or even killed in conflicts with raccoons.
- Never attempt to approach a raccoon. Like all wildlife, raccoons can act aggressively if they feel threatened.
- Raccoons sometimes carry a dangerous parasitic roundworm that can be transmitted to humans through contact with fecal matter. If cleaning an area where raccoons have frequented, wear a mask, goggles and gloves.

Call the Conservation Officer Service reporting line (1-877-952-7277) to report any raccoons acting aggressively.



Raccoons can be found in a wide variety of habitats including forests, marshes, and farmland. Highly adaptable, raccoons can also thrive in the densest urban centres.

Raccoons are easily identified by their characteristic black eye mask and striped tail. Raccoons typically measure between 60-95 centimetres from nose to tail and weigh between 6-8 kilograms. Females tend to be approximately 25% smaller than males.

Raccoons are **opportunistic omnivores**, feeding on an extremely varied diet. While known to eat just about anything edible, some preferred foods include nuts, insects, berries, clams, and bird eggs. Raccoons have incredibly sensitive and dexterous forepaws which allow them to exploit a variety of food sources. Their habit of catching aquatic creatures like crayfish, minnows, and frogs has led to the myth that raccoons wash their food before eating it.

Raccoons live throughout southern BC and along the coast, including Haida Gwaii. In much of their Canadian range, **raccoons have a winter denning period** where they sleep away the harsh winter months. This is not a true hibernation but rather a period of inactivity to survive a time of food scarcity. In warmer regions or urban cores where food is available throughout winter, raccoons may stay active year round.

Raccoons are being seen with increasing regularity in the Thompson/Okanagan region of the province.

! WHERE'S THE RACCOON?

Visit our website at www.wildsafebc.com to find a map that shows where wildlife has been sighted in your community along with information about what has attracted it into the area. By knowing where wildlife is and what is bringing it in, we can all do our part to keep wildlife wild and our communities safe.

www.wildsafebc.com



RACCOON FACTS:

- Raccoons are omnivores and will exploit a wide variety of food sources including aquatic animals found in shallow streams and ponds.
- Raccoons are usually solitary animals (except for females with young) but they will congregate if there is a good food source.
- Raccoons in the wild have a relatively short average life span due to high mortality amongst the young. While wild raccoons have a life expectancy of 3-5 years, raccoons in captivity can live upwards of 15 years.
- Raccoons are preyed on by many animals including: coyotes, wolves, hawks, owls, and bobcats. The young raccoons are especially susceptible to predation.
- Raccoons can breed from January through to June but peak breeding occurs from March to April.
- Raccoons usually give birth to 2-3 young called kits, which are ready to leave the den by 7 weeks of age.
- Raccoons are active throughout the year but will den-up and go to sleep during periods of extreme cold.
- Raccoons have a highly developed sense of touch including tactile hairs on their front paws.



www.wildsafebc.com