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MEDIA RELEASE

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## **Inhumane Traps Being Set Up To Capture And Hurt Local Wildlife in Waterloo Region**

**KITCHENER, ONTARIO:** Animal Services officers at The Humane Society of Kitchener Waterloo & Stratford Perth (HSKWSP) have witnessed an increasingly disturbing trend of traps being set to capture or harm local wildlife. Multiple traps were found within the last three weeks, with wildlife either being found deceased, in serious distress, or freed before injuries could be tended to.

“As our cities continue to grow, we are co-existing with wildlife. There are more than enough ways to co-exist peacefully without causing harm,” stated Janice Maxwell, manager of animal services, HSKWSP.

In the past three weeks, three traps have been found in Kitchener. Two were black plastic Rat Snap traps, with the first capturing a skunk. When animal services officers arrived, the skunk had clawed its way free but had sustained serious injuries and was found deceased nearby. The second also trapped a skunk, who tried to escape under a fence. When officers arrived, the animal was in distress and had already sustained significant injury. As a result, it had to be humanely euthanized. The third was an old-style metal trap – called a Conibear - set up to catch a squirrel. The animal was released before officers arrived and almost certainly sustained severe injuries.

Most municipalities have by-laws restricting the use of certain types of traps. The possession and use of body-gripping traps, including Conibear traps and some snap traps, is strictly regulated. Only qualified and licensed individuals may possess and use body-gripping traps to capture wildlife. Ontario’s trapping regulations, including requirements for the use of humane certified traps for most species, are among the strictest and most humane and comply with the Agreement on International Humane Trapping Standards.

The Humane Society is reminding residents to be aware of what is permitted and what is not, but more importantly, how to deter wildlife without causing undue suffering.

“There are so many ways to deter wildlife from our yards that do not involve seriously harming or killing wildlife,” Maxwell states. “Call a humane wildlife control company, patch up holes in your roof or put mesh screens over your range hood vents, remove anything that is attracting them or use a humane method to make the environment not favourable – make lots of noise, remove food sources. They will eventually move on.”

HSKWSP has developed a [wildlife resource guide](#) to help homeowners learn how to humanely deter wildlife from their property. The guide also gives more information on various species, co-existing with them, and when to be concerned about illness or injury.

HSKWSP is contracted to provide animal services to 13 municipalities across Waterloo Region, Perth County and Township of Zorra. Should local residents be concerned about sick or injured wildlife, they can call the Humane Society for assistance. If there are concerns for the welfare of an animal, residents are asked to call the Province of Ontario’s Animal Welfare Services team at 1-833-9ANIMAL. For concerns of illegal trapping, residents can contact the Ministry of Natural Resources.

For more information on services provided by the Humane Society of Kitchener Waterloo & Stratford Perth, please visit [kwsphumane.ca](http://kwsphumane.ca).

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*We are leaders in animal welfare in our communities and committed to promoting the human-animal bond, while focusing on the responsible treatment of animals through education, collaboration, compliance, advocacy and care. Charitable BIN 11898 3550 RR0001*

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