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CAT SEVERELY INJURED IN A KILL TRAP SET FOR WILDLIFE

Stowe, VT – A black and white domestic cat was found in Fairfax, Vermont caught in a body gripping, kill-type, Conibear trap. The cat’s leg was painfully trapped inside the jaws of the trap. Luckily for the cat, an employee of Burlington Emergency Veterinary Specialists (BEVS) found him and took him in for immediate care. The veterinarian suspected that the cat had been caught in the trap for about a week. Photos obtained from a public records request depict a mangled foot with protruding bone. These traps are designed to kill animals and it’s surprising that the cat survived the tragedy. The cat, now named Bob, required an amputation to his leg with a price tag of \$2,730.87. Months later, Bob is still recovering in a foster home.

POW learned of this tragedy via a public records request sent to the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department. POW submits public records requests to the Department on annual basis in an effort to educate the public on the non-targeted animals who are caught in traps each year, ranging from cats and dogs to Vermont endangered species like the American Marten. Trappers are not required to report when they trap a dog, cat, or other non-targeted animal in their traps, something POW wishes to change. “It is beyond comprehension that trappers are not required to report when they inadvertently trap someone’s pet”, shares Dr. Peggy Larson, a long-time Vermont veterinarian. She adds, “As someone who has tended to trapped cats, I can

tell you that the pain and suffering these animals endure is morally and ethically unacceptable.” Animal advocates are also concerned that the Department does not maintain records of these incidents. “Vermont residents have a right to know, not only when cats and dogs are trapped accidentally, but also when endangered and protected animals are injured or killed in traps set for other wildlife”, states POW Board member, Holly Tippett.

The game warden who investigated the case suspects that the cat might’ve been caught in a trap set for “nuisance” muskrat in wetlands near the rescuer’s home. Unfortunately, the case was closed in mid-July due to lack of evidence. People who are trapping under the nuisance wildlife provision are not required to possess a trapping license nor are they required to tag their traps, so that may explain why the trap that caught the cat was unidentified. “Trapping under the guise of nuisance wildlife control is totally unregulated in Vermont and is responsible for much unnecessary suffering of targeted species and non targeted animals”, states Brenna Galdenzi, POW founder and President. She adds, “The Fish & Wildlife Department has little to no data on how many wild animals are killed each year under this provision because reporting is not required. We feel that is a complete abdication of the Department’s responsibility to protect and conserve wildlife for the benefit of all Vermonters.”

House bill, [H.262](#), An act relating to the licensing of nuisance wildlife control operators, seeks to firm up certain aspects of out of season, “nuisance” wildlife trapping. POW is asking people to contact the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department and ask them to support long-overdue regulations concerning out of season trapping at: fwinformation@vermont.gov . People should also contact their legislators and ask them to support H.262. “We hope that in the wake of tragedies like this one, people will take action and demand better protections for all animals who are at the mercy of these traps”, Galdenzi states. She adds, “We wish Bob the cat a full recovery and a long life with a responsible, loving family who will keep him safe and indoors.”

Photos may be viewed [here](#) and [here](#) {warning: graphic}

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