



News Release

For Immediate Release

Pickering Denounces Use of Illegal Body-Gripping Traps

Pickering, ON, April 17, 2013 – In response to reports of a coyote being caught in a snare in the Whitevale area, the City of Pickering is reminding the public that the *Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act* prohibits the general public from using body-gripping traps for animals.

Fortunately, the coyote was freed and is currently under veterinary care. The City of Pickering is in contact with the Ministry of Natural Resources who confirmed that it will be launching an investigation to determine who set out the illegal trap. The regulations classify a body-gripping trap as a device designed to capture or kill an animal by seizing and holding it by a part of its body.

While some residents may view coyotes as a nuisance, the City of Pickering reminds the public that anyone caught using a body-gripping trap without authorization may be subject to a significant fine or penalty. “While some residents find coyotes and other wildlife to be a nuisance, I am vehemently opposed to the use of these cruel and inhumane traps,” said Bill McLean, Regional Councillor, Ward 2, and Council representative for the Animal Services Appeal Committee. “They are not only inhumane, but may also pose a serious threat to public safety. Rather than resorting to illegal traps, I encourage residents to follow the Ministry of Natural Resources’ suggestions on how to keep wildlife away from their property.”

If anyone is aware of illegally set traps, they are asked to contact the Ministry of Natural Resources violation reporting line at 1.877.847.7667 toll-free, or they may call Crime Stoppers anonymously at 1.800.222.8477. If an animal is caught in an unlawfully set trap, please contact Pickering’s Animal Services at 905.683.7575 who will attend to the health and welfare of the trapped animal. For general information on wildlife, please visit the Animal Services section at pickering.ca.

As the gateway to the east GTA, Pickering (population 94,000) is strategically located where Toronto, York and Durham Regions meet and has been recognized by Profit magazine as one of the ten best cities in Canada for growth companies. Pickering's downtown has been named an Urban Growth Centre and Mobility Hub by the Province of Ontario, and is personified by a \$23-million landmark pedestrian bridge that connects directly to the GO train station. The City of Pickering is considered a municipal leader in fiscal management, service delivery, sustainability and the environment. With its direct access to major highways; educated and skilled labour force; prime employment lands; a world class EN3 (energy, environmental, & engineering) sector; state-of-the-art infrastructure; and supportive municipal government; Pickering offers unrivalled competitive advantages for business. Visit pickering.ca/mediacentre for more news.

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