

# TRAPPED...



"The aim of this feature is to awaken your conscience to save millions of animals from the inconceivable agony of the steel-jaw trap. More than 25 million wild animals are trapped or snared every year. Struggling for days and nights, sometimes for weeks in the well-hidden steel-jaw traps, they suffer unimaginable anguish, thirst, hunger, freezing cold and exhaustion. In their desperate efforts to free the trapped leg, they only succeed in most cases in tearing the flesh, breaking the bone, breaking their teeth against the hard steel of the trap or gnawing off their trapped foot."

A Canadian survey of two traplines over a 5-year period showed that for 561 animals caught whose fur was saleable, there were 1350 additional victims crushed in the steeljaws. These animals were known as "trash". Animals without value for the trapper: geese, ducks, song birds, eagles, owls, porcupines, squirrels and other such animals including family pets.

For most trappers, trapping is but a minor supplemental to their income or simply a hobby. For the animals it is a no-win painful end to their existence.

Austria, Chile, Denmark, Norway, Switzerland, West Germany and the United Kingdom have outlawed the leghold trap. Only traps that kill immediately or those that hold the animal unharmed are allowed. But, in the United States and Canada, there are no national laws against these traps.

Over the past 40 years, various organizations such as the World Federation for the Protection of Animals (WVFA), the Association for the Protection of Fur-Bearing Animals (APFA) and most recently The Fur Institute have sprung up due to public protest of inhumane trapping practices. Unfortunately the only visible marks that have been made in this fight are the partial bans on leg-hold traps implemented in British Columbia and, to a lesser extent, in Ontario.

These animals cannot help themselves. No matter how they struggle, they can't win. Only we can help them - get involved.

