

Alberta Trappers' Association

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PRESS RELEASE

Attention Rural Residents and Recreational Hunters

Trapping Season is starting across Alberta and there are a few things people with dogs must be aware of!

Trappers operate on both crown land designations and private land with permission of the landowner.

Trappers not only harvest fur bearing predators for pelt value but also to manage predator populations in and around rural communities and agricultural areas. This management process reduces the occurrence of livestock depredation, disease and helps keep rural residents and their pets safe from conflict with over abundant predatory species such as coyotes and wolves.

Trapping in and around rural communities is one of the most effective tools we have to reduce transmission of the **deadly Echinococcus Multilocularis parasitic worm** carried by 30%-60% of wild fox and coyote in Alberta. The eggs are transmitted via canine feces and family pets in high density areas may become exposed and transmit eggs to their owners.

Trappers use both live hold devices and lethal devices to manage furbearers. In most cases a pet can be released from a live hold device unharmed. But the humane technology of modern day trapping systems means that lethal traps kill very quickly and there is a very narrow window for rescue.

Trappers take the responsibility of predator management on behalf of Albertans seriously. But trapping operations may present a risk to dogs if residents are not responsible in controlling their pets and allow them to roam freely on land without access permission.

Allowing dogs to roam free off of the owner's property puts the animal at risk for traffic incidents as well as potential conflict with livestock and predators both.

Private landowners should be aware that allowing dogs to run at large off their property puts the animal at risk and is a breach of municipal bylaws!

Residents must also be aware that virtually all the crown lands in Alberta other than federal parks are also registered trapping areas so dogs should be under control by the owner for their own safety.

Recreational hunters should be aware that trappers may have areas set up for trapping on farms, ranches and leased lands.

Best practice is that hunters in the field using dogs should confirm with landowners whether or not trapping is taking place on their land.

It is recommended all bird hunters carry a pair of cable cutters with them in the field at all times!

In many cases larger tracts of land will be posted by trappers, but unfortunately signs also make trappers on smaller property vulnerable to vandalism and interference by those with a negative agenda against trapping.

Considering the extent of trapping operations here in Alberta, incidents are very rare. But tragedies do happen and the Alberta Trappers Association will continue to work hard to keep Albertans aware and informed.

AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEWS:

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