

Reward Offered in Illegal Montana Cat Trapping Mutilation Case

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Contact: Sgt. Scott Van Every - 406-771-1180 x 421

PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Humane Society of the United States and The Humane Society Wildlife Land Trust are offering a \$2,500 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible for setting the illegal trap that resulted in permanent injury to a domestic cat in Great Falls, Mont.

According to published media reports, on Jan. 26 a male cat—later named “George” by rescuers—was found in a leghold trap on Wilson Butte Road. The cat’s leg was broken by the trap. He was recovered by a citizen who brought him to the Great Falls Animal Shelter where veterinarians were forced to amputate his leg. George has since been adopted and is doing well.

“The person responsible for setting this illegal trap caused this cat to suffer immensely and ultimately lose his leg,” said Wendy Hergenraeder, the Montana state director for The HSUS. “We applaud the Great Falls Police Department for giving this case the serious attention it deserves.”

Every year in the United States, companion animals and hunting dogs are injured, maimed, and killed in the United States by dangerous and indiscriminate devices set out—both legally and illegally—by fur trappers to supply pelts for the fashion industry. One of the single most important things individuals can do to protect dogs and cats from being caught in traps is to not buy or wear fur from trapped animals, including raccoons, foxes, bobcats, coyotes, and wolves.

Facts:

- Leghold traps can crush or tear the skin, bones and connective tissue of the victim and render the animal defenseless against the weather and predators. Animals caught in leghold traps sometimes chew or twist off their limbs.
- Leghold traps are indiscriminate and can maim or kill any animal that triggers them, including companion animals, hunting dogs, and threatened or endangered species.
- While leghold traps are legal in the state of Montana, a city ordinance in Great Falls prohibits their use.

The Investigators:

Anyone with information regarding this case should contact Sgt. Scott Van Every at the Great Falls Police Department at 406-771-1180 ext. 421

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