



MARYLAND VOTES FOR ANIMALS

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March 31, 2021

To: Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
From: Lisa Radov, President and Chairman, Maryland Votes for Animals, Inc.
Re: Cecil County- Snare Traps – Repeal of Prohibitions - HB 579 – Oppose

Chairman Pinsky, Vice Chairman Kagan, members of the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify before to you today. My name is Lisa Radov. I am the President and Chairman of Maryland Votes for Animals. We champion humane legislation to improve the lives of animals in Maryland. Speaking for Maryland Votes for Animals, our Board of Directors, and our members across Maryland, I respectfully request that you return an unfavorable vote on Cecil County- Snare Traps – Repeal of Prohibitions- HB 579.

Snare Traps are cruel metal trapping devices that use wire to trap the leg or neck of an animal. When a Snare Trap burrows its sharp metal wire deeply into its victim, the pain is excruciating. Victims writhe and twist in agony as they are left to bleed, freeze, or starve. Some die of strangulation. Animals have been known to chew off their trapped leg to become free, especially mothers foraging for food to nourish their young.

The American Veterinary Association has expressed opposition to Snare Traps, calling them “inhumane.” Snare Traps have been banned or restricted in 7 states: New Jersey, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Colorado, California, Florida, and Rhode Island - as well as in 88 countries. The European Union has banned the sale of fur from animals who are killed using these cruel devices.

Maryland hunters already have ample tools at their disposal. This means of catching wildlife is a threat to anyone who is an unfortunate victim, a child running to catch a ball in the woods, a family pet, or unsuspecting wildlife for whom the Snare Trap was not intended. There are too many dangerous unintended consequences that are exposed with this bill.

I urge this committee to return an unfavorable report on HB 579.

Let Kindness Reign, Vote Humane

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