



MARYLAND VOTES FOR ANIMALS

PO Box 10411
BALTIMORE, MD 21209

February 10, 2021

To: House Environment & Transportation Committee
From: Lisa Radov, President and Chairman, Maryland Votes for Animals, Inc.
Re: Snare Traps – Prohibition Against Sale or Possession – Alterations - HB 579 – Oppose

Chairman Barve, Vice Chairman Stein, members of the Environment & Transportation 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 the House Environment & Transportation Committee give an unfavorable vote to Snare Traps – Prohibition Against Sale or Possession – Alterations - HB 579.

Snare traps are cruel and inhumane devices that clamp down on whomever or whatever gets lodged in between its sharp metal teeth. The most common is the steel – jaw trap. It burrows deeply into the animal, whether it is a dog, cat, bird, fox, raccoon, rabbit, or even a human. The pain is excruciating. Victims writhe and twist in agony as they freeze and or starve to death. Some animals will even go to such lengths as chewing off their trapped leg to become free, especially animals who are caring for their young. Their young will starve to death if their mother is ensnared in the trap and unable to come and feed them.

The American Veterinary Association has expressed opposition the use of these traps calling them “inhumane.” They see the cases of family pets, whose legs or paws have to be amputated, or who have to be euthanized after an unfortunate step into one of these traps. These traps have been banned or restricted in 8 states including New Jersey Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Colorado, California, Florida, and Rhode Island as well as 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 any person, such as a child playing or running to catch a ball that ran into the woods, family pets, as well as unsuspecting wildlife for whom the 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 vote on HB 579.

Let Kindness Reign, Vote Humane

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