



Will the next victim be *your* four-legged friend?

Dear [salutation],

Leo, a carefree, brown-eyed puppy, trotted down a popular hiking trail beside his human buddy, Don.

Suddenly, Leo's nose led him just off the path. The little guy was gone only a moment when ... SNAP!

The steel jaws of a trap clamped around Leo's snout. As Leo yelped in agony, Don worked feverishly to free him. But the barbaric device was too strong, [salutation], and Leo was too scared.

It took three grown men to pry that deadly device from Leo's mangled nose. After treatment for an infection caused by the trap, Leo's okay ... and he's lucky.

Every year countless cats, dogs — even children — are caught in traps set to feed the fur trade, to snare "nuisance wildlife," or, believe it or not, just for recreation.

As they bring brutal torture and slow death to innocent life, these traps cannot distinguish between a family pet and a so-called "target animal."

Will you act now to end this stone-hearted savagery with your gift of \$MRC ... \$MRCx1.5 ... or even \$MRCx2?

You can help make an immediate impact by sending the most generous donation you can to Born Free USA, but also by signing the enclosed petition to help keep animals safe from trapping!

Today's gift, along with your signed petition to Born Free USA, will protect animals from cruel suffering. And here's something that few know ...

(over)



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KEEP WILDLIFE IN THE WILD

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For every animal caught intentionally, traps might ensnare two others unintentionally — usually cats, deer, birds, squirrels, dogs like Leo, even threatened or endangered species.

A dog named Sage met a wretched fate. Accompanying her family on a horseback ride, Sage was drawn to a gruesome Conibear trap.

When her family found her, Sage was dead, her neck broken by this ruthless killing device.

People not only set traps in neighborhoods and public places where pets and kids play; they place these murderous machines in areas designated as National Wildlife Refuges!

Theodore Roosevelt established the first such refuge on Pelican Island, Florida, to protect this threatened bird species.

Today the National Wildlife Refuge System encompasses millions of acres, home to a remarkably diverse collection of fish and wildlife habitats.

Harboring 240 endangered species, these refuges are set aside with the stated mission to “conserve and restore” wildlife. Yet trapping is allowed in more than half of them today.

What a tragedy! Conibear traps, snares, steel-jaw leghold traps — banned or severely restricted in 80 countries and 8 states — are permitted in many National Wildlife Refuges.

Instead of areas of safety, these sacred places have been transformed into killing fields. The most barbaric implements of trapping and slaughter are sanctioned. Even bald eagles and other imperiled species have been found in snares.

Your quick action today will make a difference right away for furbearers on National Wildlife Refuges. Please send the most generous donation you can to Born Free USA, and with your gift, sign and return the enclosed petition to the US Department of the Interior urging it to support an end to trapping on refuges.

Don't believe what trapping advocates say about quick kills. Traps cannot control the size or type of animal captured. Nor can they determine the angle of an animal's approach.

So most often, traps ensnare and injure first. Death comes only after days of suffering ... after starvation, dehydration, slow strangulation, infection, even predation!

Steel-jaw leghold traps are the most commonly used traps in the United States. Animals caught in these traps are so desperate to escape that they often gnaw off their own limbs to get free. But they only die soon after, from starvation, infection, or attack from other predators.

There are aquatic versions of these traps. Muskrats, otters, beavers, and mink caught in these traps drown miserably. It can take as long as 20 minutes.

Snare traps, meant to strangle their victims or crush vital organs, deliver their own brand of torture.

The more an animal struggles against a snare the tighter it gets, causing agony but not necessarily death. While smaller animals may perish in six or seven minutes, larger animals can suffer for days.

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While Conibear traps are designed as instant killing machines, some studies show that as few as 15 percent of the captures are quick kills. This explains why dogs and cats can struggle in them for many hours, even days.

The bottom line: No matter what animal is caught, traps mean suffering — needless, avoidable suffering!

And to what end? Although some argue that trapping is a necessary form of wildlife “*management*,” this is based on a flawed understanding of wildlife populations.

Most often, the real driving forces behind trapping are the livestock and hunting lobbies.

When nuisance and overpopulation aren’t the excuses, animals are trapped in the cause of fashion. With a host of humane alternatives, must animals suffer to keep us in style?

Wild animals belong in the wild — not in our closets, not in cruel, barbaric traps!

And when you support Born Free USA, you help keep dangerous traps away from our pets and our kids — out of our neighborhoods and our National Refuges.

What’s happening now is entirely unacceptable!

You and I can launch a powerful groundswell of grassroots action to change the way animals are treated in America, [salutation]. We can end the shame of trapping, and we will.

You and I will work to restore the purpose of our National Wildlife Refuges. We’ll make sure that a refuge truly is a safe haven for this country’s precious wildlife heritage.

Our animal friends cannot speak out against the injustice of trapping themselves. So you and I must be their voices in [donor city], [donor state], and all across America!

That’s what you’ll do when you sign and return the enclosed petition to us with your generous gift of \$MRC ... \$MRCx1.5 ... \$MRCx2 ... or more today, [salutation]! You’ll raise the voice of compassion and common sense!

Keeping Wildlife Safe in the Wild!

Will Travers
Chief Executive Officer

P.S. Avoid fur in all its forms; sign and return the enclosed petition; and send your gift of \$MRC ... \$MRCx1.5 ... or even \$MRCx2 ... today to help end cruel, barbaric trapping!



We use recycled paper and soy-based inks to help preserve the environment.