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## Be kind to stinky skunks: wildlife officials

By CBC News  
CBC News

*The death of a skunk that had been shot with a crossbow in Vancouver has wildlife officials asking the public to be more humane when dealing with the pungent urban wildlife.*

The death of a skunk that had been shot with a crossbow in Vancouver has wildlife officials asking the public to be more humane when dealing with the pungent urban wildlife.

Lani Sheldon of the Burnaby Wildlife Rescue Association said the skunk was brought in for treatment earlier this month, but later died.

"We do see a lot of pretty horrible things here at wildlife rescue but this one definitely takes the cake for the year. The animal had been shot with a competitive arrow from a crossbow," said Sheldon.

More than 100 skunks are brought to their centre each year - many suffering from human inflicted injuries. People are frustrated with the smell and take extreme steps to get rid of the mammal, she said.

"Unfortunately, people will undertake trapping or inhumane pest control practices to solve their skunk problem, so we do see a large number of skunks here usually at this time of year."

But instead of trapping or shooting the animals people should contact their local SPCA or the Wildlife Rescue Association to learn about more humane ways to get rid of the skunks, said Sheldon.

"Get a small container and put a few inches of either bleach or ammonia in the bottom of it and put a lid on it and poke holes and put it near the denning site," she suggests.

Meanwhile, Sheldon promises the increase in pungent odor is only temporary and isn't because of a population boom. Instead, it's caused by baby skunks who are coming out of the den and marking new territory during the summer months.

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