

Sun-loving marmot to be moved from Burnaby to find chums

BY CHERYL CHAN, THE PROVINCE JUNE 20, 2010



Yellow-Bellied Marmot

Photograph by: Gerry Kahrmann File, PNG, The Province

The yellow-bellied marmot haunting a Burnaby neighbourhood will soon find a new home.

Doreen Thauberger reported the presence of the furry critter she had nicknamed Marmalade the Marmot to B.C. Wildlife last week.

Saturday, a wildlife rescue official dropped off a cage, along with instructions to use peanut butter as a lure.

"I just hate to see that thing come down on him, but I'm glad he's going to be taken somewhere safe," said Thauberger, who first spotted Marmalade about a week ago, living in the drainage pipes in the alley behind her house.

"He just loves the sun," she said. "Right now, he's having a nice suntan in the middle of the alley."

Crystal Simmons of the Wildlife Rescue Association of B.C. said the group has been getting more marmot calls in recent years. Their last rescue was just a week ago in North Vancouver.

"They like to hitchhike, and [so] end up at the wrong place at the wrong time," said Simmons. "It's important to get them back to where they belong."

Yellow-bellied marmots, native to the southeast of B.C., are social creatures meant to live in colonies, she said.

"Him being single here, he wouldn't have a very happy life."

Simmons said it will be up to the Environment Ministry to decide where Marmalade will be relocated.

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