

Stuck skunk causes stink over Vancouver dumpsters

Critter the fifth to be rescued in weeks

BY SUSAN LAZARUK, THE PROVINCE SEPTEMBER 1, 2010 8:47 AM



Marcy Potter, of the Wildlife Rescue Association of B.C., rescues a skunk that became caught in a dumpster drain hole in east Vancouver on Aug. 31.

Photograph by: Wayne Leidenfrost, PNG

There was a bit of a stink in an East Vancouver neighbourhood early Tuesday when a skunk in search of a tasty snack got his head stuck in a dumpster drain.

The fluffy stinkball got jammed head-first in a drain that was just big enough for him to enter but too small for him to exit. That left the least attractive part of the little pest flapping in the breeze and very much operational.

“He was spraying a lot,” said Marcy Potter of the Wildlife Rescue Association. “He didn’t get a direct hit but he was definitely giving off spray a couple of times.”

After a failed attempt by SPCA staffers to lubricate the skunk’s head and ease him out of the dumpster behind the 3500-block of Commercial Drive, Potter arrived, armed with a syringe of knock-out drugs.

After sedating the skunk, “we tried to get a towel over the rear end,” she said. A makeshift gauze was slipped over his head, an operation that took 45 minutes.

“There’s lots of swelling on the jaw and fur missing on the neck,” Potter said. But the adult, dubbed Skunk No. 5 because it’s the fifth one rescued from dumpsters in the past three weeks, is expected to fully recover.

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