

SPCA investigates after skunk shot with arrow dies of its injuries

BY TIFFANY CRAWFORD, VANCOUVER SUN AUGUST 24, 2010

Vancouver's skunks may be raising a stink with residents, but that's no reason to hurt them, an animal protection group says.

The Wildlife Rescue Association is calling on the public to learn to live with the timid creatures after a skunk was shot with an arrow in Vancouver.

The female skunk was found with an arrow in its abdomen on Keefer Street on Aug. 7.

The animal was brought to the WRA care centre in Burnaby where the arrow was removed, but the skunk died from its injuries.

The SPCA is investigating the incident as a case of animal abuse.

"It was pretty horrific and the skunk was in a great deal of pain," said Lani Sheldon, WRA's team leader of wildlife rehabilitation. "We see many animals in distress brought into the WRA, but it was particularly disturbing to see such a deliberate act of cruelty committed against an animal that poses so few threats to humans."

Skunks, along with other urban wildlife such as coyotes, squirrels and raccoons, have been prospering in Metro Vancouver.

Sheldon said the WRA receives up to 100 skunks a year -- almost all with injuries caused by humans.

Over the last 18 months, WRA rehabilitators have treated skunks hit by vehicles and shot with pellet guns.

Skunks are not a physical threat to pets or children and are not aggressive, Sheldon said, only spraying as a last resort.

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