

Town of Canmore
Calgary Animal Control Services

17 Dec 2014
via fax

RE: Canmore Feral Rabbits

I write to ask if an arrangement can be made (which does not require advance paid public donations) to enable sending Canmore's unspayed female rabbits to Calgary Animal Control for spaying by volunteer veterinarians as was previously done in early 2012. Males should also be rescued and kept separated, as they do not require the time or expense of sterilizing until they will be living with other territorial males.

Calgary offers residents no cost spay-neuter for low income owners of cats & dogs. Canmore should also consider offering similar subsidies for rescues with less restrictive criteria for sanctuaries so as to encourage Canmore's non-kill advocate residents to participate.

Otherwise the feral rabbit issue will continue for a very long time, wasting taxpayer money and causing unnecessary cruelty & suffering to the feral rabbits that are/were trapped and acid-gas suffocated.

Given that Canmore had all Albertans to pay over \$17 million for flood damages and mitigation, perhaps Canmore will release every per season total costs and numbers killed for the feral rabbit program.

Given that in the summer of 2012, EARS founder Susan Vickery kept about \$28,000 of donations without any explanation or accounting, it appears that any public funds should not be forwarded to EARS.

Furthermore I have spoken with some potential sanctuary owners who said they were unfairly refused by EARS-Vickery without even a visit, and given the missing donation funds, perhaps there is also a connection to why other viable sanctuaries were also denied or never followed up on.

Canmore could provide or authorize temporary shelters until permanent sanctuaries or homes could be found - including sanctuaries outside Alberta to increase rescue chances & local anti-kill residents participation.

In the end this issue is Canmore's problem and expense: morally-ethically and economically. Rescuers whom have been shut out can only offer alternative options to consider. It is up to Canmore to see the intangible effects such as unmeasurable lost tourism and lost goodwill of the community as no-kill advocates as callously abused or ignored.

In the USA alone rabbits rank as a top 5 pet, and in USA there are well over a million households with domestic rabbits as pets. Online worldwide, I am finding many more rabbit pet owners and rescuers. Unfortunately Canmore has intimidated local rescuers to the point it appears that nobody locally will step up to help save the rabbits and Canmore's international reputation. Canmore officials need to reconsider.

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