

6/7/2012

To: The White Bear Township Public Safety Commission.
From: Scott Slocum, 1416 Birchcrest Drive, White Bear Lake, MN
Re: Petition for Protection from Trapping in White Bear, MN.

Thank you for considering our petition. We've left the details up to you, on how to improve the Ordinances, because you're the ones who know the most about them. All we're asking for is the safety of our pets if they're occasionally off their leashes or out of their yards in our residential neighborhoods.

In your meeting tonight, Bill Elliot is presenting a trapper's perspective. Bill taught the trapper-education class I took this Spring. He knows trapping, he's careful and responsible, and he's a subscriber to the Minnesota Trappers Association's code of ethics (a copy of which I've provided for you), which calls for the avoidance of the unnecessary capture of non-target animals (including our pets).

Although our petition didn't get into details, I'll address some of the details that I think Mr. Elliot will address in tonight's meeting:

- Our pets are generally in our yards or on their leashes, but there have been times when we've depended on the law or the goodwill of others to keep them safe:
 - Where there might have been traps hidden within the reach of their leashes.
 - They've stuck their heads in, and we've pulled them out.
 - And we were lucky that there were no traps there.
 - When they briefly escaped our yards or their leashes.
 - Some of our neighbors weren't happy.
 - But they didn't impose the death penalty that a trap can deliver.
 - When we were alone with them in our open spaces, and we let them run.
 - We haven't needed fences--we've trusted our neighbors to be safe.
 - But now we've seen how dangerous outsiders can be.
- Our rights on our private property don't include putting our neighbors in danger.
 - Our neighbors include their pets.
- If our petition asked for specifics, it would ask for the following:
 - No taking that endangers people or domestic animals (e.g. MN 97B.651).
 - No dangerous, unguarded equipment (e.g. White Bear Township 16.5.n).
 - No feeding of wild animals (e.g. Vadnais Heights 147.080).
 - (some signers asked for a trapping ban, e.g. Vadnais Heights 147.060).