

FOOTLOOSE MONTANA

Promoting trap-free public lands for people, pets & wildlife

February 2008

www.footloosemontana.org

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Reminder: Mini Trapped Pet Release Workshop on March 2 in Hamilton

Footloose Montana's president, Marty Essen, is going to present "Around the World in 90 Minutes" on March 2, at 2:00 p.m., at the Ravalli County Museum. This will likely be the only public showing of *Around the World in 90 Minutes* in the Bitterroot Valley this year. At the show, Marty will sign copies of his award-winning book, *Cool Creatures, Hot Planet: Exploring the Seven Continents*. Joining him will be special guests Adam & Eve. Tame and six-foot-long, Adam & Eve are rainbow boas—perhaps the most beautiful species of snake in the world.

Following the slide show, members of Footloose Montana will put on an abbreviated version of their popular, **trap-release workshop**. Numerous pets have been caught in traps in the Bitterroot Valley recently. This workshop will teach pet owners how to give their dogs and cats a fighting chance, should they become victims of leghold traps, body-gripping traps, or snares.

Marty will donate \$5.00 from every copy of *Cool Creatures, Hot Planet* sold on Sunday to Footloose Montana!

- Date/Time: Sunday, March 2 at 2:00 p.m.
- Place: Ravalli County Museum, 205 Bedford Street, Hamilton, MT
- Phone: 363-3338
- Price: Free for Bitter Root Valley Historical Society members; \$3.00 for adults; \$5.00 for couples; \$6.00 for families.

Cherished Pets! Honor your companion animal in the Missoulian

Whether they are still part of our lives or have left us, we cherish the time we have with our companion animals.

Traps have taken some of our companion animals from us. Honor the memory of your special friend with a cherished pet memorial message in the Missoulian. Use the ad form in the B-section of the Missoulian on Saturday, February 23 or complete the online form available at:

<http://missoulian.com/specials/pets/>

In your message, you might choose to **encourage others to support Footloose Montana and its mission to ban trapping on public lands. Our website address is www.footloosemontana.org.** The deadline for the memorials is March 25.

Summary of furbearers killed in traps in the 2007-08 season

The Montana trapping regulations distinguish species categorized as predators, such as coyote, weasel, skunk, and civet cat (spotted skunk) from those categorized as non-game, some of which have “commercial value,” including badger, raccoon, and red fox. For these animals, trapping is entirely unregulated and can occur year-round. During the official furbearer trapping season (September through May), an unlimited number of furbearers without quota, such as beaver, marten and mink, can be trapped.

Only four species have a quota set by the official Furbearer Trapping Program. During this winter, trappers reported to Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) that they’ve killed the following furbearers in traps or snares: 2,400 bobcats (the number exceeded the set quota by 45 animals); 55 otter (as of February 27); 6 fisher, and 9 wolverine.

Where the traps are: Trap incident report for February 2008

In February, a dog was caught in a small Conibear trap set for rabbits (see story in the Missoulian, February 26, 2008, (<http://www.missoulian.com/articles/2008/02/26/news/mtregional/news06.txt>).

In one tragic incident, a Golden lab named Logan died in a snare set on private land along the Bitterroot River. Our deepest condolences to Logan’s guardian who witnessed his companion’s suffering and lost his beloved friend.

Please contact us at info@footloosemontana.org if you know of any trap locations or have a trap experience to share.

Footloose presented at conference in Billings, MT

Our Executive Director, Anja Heister, together with two members of Footloose Montana, gave a presentation on trapping of wildlife and companion animals on public lands, at the conference *Animal and Earth Advocacy: Links of Life*, organized by the Institute for Critical Animal Studies (ICAS), last weekend in Billings. More than 30 participants came from throughout Montana as well as other states, including Texas, Pennsylvania and Colorado, and other countries such as Belgium and the UK. Anja’s presentation was well received. **Participants expressed astonishment about the continued cruel and outdated practice of the trapping in Montana.**

For a compassionate and footloose 2008,
Your friends at Footloose Montana