

Missoulain, July 16, 2008

Activity this barbaric cannot be rationalized

I find it interesting that every letter submitted in support of trappers and their actions begins by criticizing the anti-trapping community for characterizing trappers as cruel and unethical individuals engaged in a horrendous activity.

None of these authors, however, then go on to actually refute those characterizations in a logical manner. The reason? It's not possible. An activity as barbaric as trapping cannot be rationalized, explained or justified. Instead, these authors toss out facts, figures and statements which cannot, and do not, logically refute the point at hand.

Is torturing and killing a few wolverines acceptable because it doesn't affect the overall population? Should trapping be viewed as acceptable because some of its practitioners are young and female? Does the fact that trapping was practiced in the 1800s really have any relevance today? Am I missing something here?

We are talking about the inflicting of needless and unimaginable suffering on our wildlife. We are talking about the wanton placement of devices in our wilderness areas that will indiscriminately kill almost anything unfortunate enough to be caught within them.

If the trapping community wants to teach the public how to release pets from their devices, so be it. But make no mistake - this does not justify or excuse their actions. Their motivation is not born of concern for you or your pets. It is an attempt to divert some of the unwanted attention their "sport" is currently receiving from an increasingly well-informed public.

Like the letters they submit, it is yet another attempt to shift the focus away from the true nature of their activities.

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