

MEDIA RELEASE - For Immediate Release



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EARS to provide sanctuary for Canmore Feral Rabbits

The Town of Canmore has received a proposal from Susan Vickery of the Earthanimal Humane Education and Rescue Society (EARS) to provide a sanctuary for feral rabbits trapped in Canmore. The Town and EARS are finalizing an agreement that will allow for the transfer of feral rabbits trapped in Canmore to EARS, a volunteer-operated, registered animal welfare charity that manages a sanctuary and provides satellite sanctuaries for abandoned farm animals and European domestic rabbits.

Since deciding to manage the feral rabbit population in Canmore, the Town has been clear that if a non-for-profit society for spay/neutering and permanent relocation at an appropriate sanctuary came forward at any time, the contractor will, upon Town approval, release trapped feral rabbits to the group. "We want to make sure that any transfer of rabbits is done responsibly. We can't have our problem become someone else's." says Canmore Mayor Ron Casey. "EARS has brought us a sound proposal and we are looking forward to working with them."

EARS will be utilizing an offer from the City of Calgary Bylaw Services to use their clinic for spaying and neutering of the rabbits. "Local veterinarians have offered to donate their time to perform the procedures" explains Susan Vickery, Founding Director of EARS. "We have received some generous support for getting Canmore's rabbits to sanctuary," she explains. "Our capacity to continue

to relocate the feral rabbits of Canmore to permanent sanctuary is directly proportional to the amount of financial and in-kind support we can generate.” Vickery continues to accept donations for rabbits living in sanctuary. Donations can be made at <http://canmorebunnies.blogspot.com/>

The Town of Canmore will provide EARS with as many rabbits as they can take at this time. The Town of Canmore has several living with wildlife programs including bear proof garbage bins, bird feed restrictions, and the WildSmart community education program. Managing feral rabbits is consistent with these programs. Feral rabbits in Canmore are domesticated pets that were inappropriately released into the community. They are not a native wildlife species.