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July 18, 2016

Grand Island Town Board
2255 Baseline Rd.
Grand Island, NY 14072

RE: For Public Record - July 18 Public Hearing on Trapping Law

Dear Supervisor McMurray and Honorable Town Board Members,

The Humane Society of the United States, the nation's largest animal protection organization, supports passage of Version A of the draft law, **Restricting Trapping on Town-Owned Property**, now under consideration by the Grand Island town board.

Every year, various types of traps are used in New York to legally take thousands of wild animals. These animals are not the only creatures captured in such devices. Many dogs and cats are injured and killed each year, indiscriminately and randomly caught in steel-jawed leghold traps, conibear traps and illegally placed snare traps. Animals caught in such traps suffer greatly and may resort to extreme measures, such as chewing off their own limbs, in order to escape.

Trapping remains legal and viable in many areas across Erie County. Restricting this practice on town-owned property in the municipality will not unduly affect the ability of trappers to engage in such activities in areas available to them. However, by passing Version A, the town board will acknowledge the popular view held by town residents who feel that a prohibition of trapping on said parcels will strongly benefit public safety.

On behalf of our members and supporters in the town of Grand Island, the Humane Society of the United States appreciates the opportunity to share this information with you. We kindly thank the town board for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Brian Shapiro

Brian Shapiro
New York State Director
The Humane Society of the United States
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