

FOR-181

The Basics of Trap Selection for Furbearers and Mammalian Pests

Jonathan A. Matthews, University of Kentucky, Matthew T. Springer, Associate Extension Professor of Wildlife Management, University of Kentucky Department of Forestry and Natural Resources, and Stacy White, Agriculture and Natural Resource Agent, University of Kentucky

INTRODUCTION

Trapping is an important tool for wildlife management and is regularly used by wildlife biologists, farmers, trappers and private landowners to aid in endangered species protection, mitigation of human-wildlife conflicts, provide materials for fur and associated industries, and disease control. Since the tool is applied to a wide variety of wildlife species and situations, traps for wildlife come in a variety of sizes and styles depending on the target wildlife species and the situation in which the trap is needed. Trapping can be an incredibly effective way to capture animals once one understands the basics of each trap type and in which situations they are most effective for any given wildlife species. The advantage to trapping over other harvest methods is that traps work for you even when you are not present. Much research has gone into trapping in the past 30 years to ensure humane capture of wildlife species. Based on this research, modern trapping practices and traps make it possible to capture wildlife in a manner that is humane, either holding the animal until the trapper arrives or swiftly and humanely dispatching it. There are many differing opinions on selecting traps; however, in this paper we attempt to communicate the basics in trap selection for harvesting animals according to the most up-to-date scientific research and best management practices (BMPs).

Selecting the proper trap is one of the one most important decisions that one must make when trapping regardless of the situation. The wrong trap or the wrong trap size can create a situation in which non-target animals are harvested or injured. Using the wrong trap also increases your chances of missing the targeted animal when the trap is triggered and thus educates them about the trap setup making them more difficult to capture in the future or the target animal is captured but is injured by the trap and thus not humanely captured. When selecting a trap one must decide if he/she is looking to humanely euthanize the animal with the trap or hold the animal alive to humanely euthanize it when he/she checks the trap. One must also take into account the power needed to catch and hold the animal and choose a trap that is sufficient, but not so extreme it cause unneeded injury or creates problems for potential non-target animals. Another consideration is the situation in which one is trapping in. A raccoon in an attic probably will require a different trap and tactic than a raccoon eating sweet corn in a garden. In the following sections we will briefly discuss trap

sizing, trap designs, trapping laws, and recommended traps for common furbearing and nuisance mammals. Nonetheless, to truly succeed in trapping requires the knowledge of other trapping skills not mentioned here (i.e., baits, lures, sets), a grasp of wildlife behavior, and the experience gained by spending time in the field and putting the basics discussed here into practice.

TRAP SIZE

Traps are arranged in a variety of sizes that are mainly dependent upon the target animal. Different trapping companies size traps differently, so for this article we will focus on trap sizes in jaw spread in inches when we discuss traps for individual species. Jaw spread on a foothold trap is measured as the width between the open trap jaws perpendicular to the trap hinges (Figure.1)

For conibears, jaw spread is measured as the maximum spread parallel to the trigger (Figure.3). Cage traps are

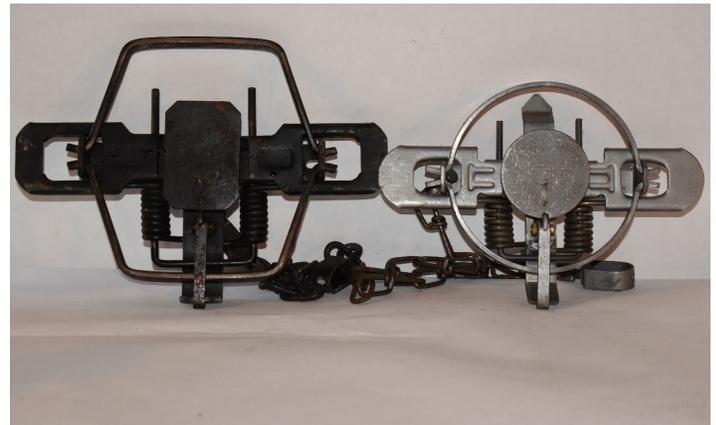


Figure 1. Coil-spring Foothold Trap

measured in the overall dimensions of the trap in length, width, and height. Trap size is important because not only does proper trap sizing ensure a humane catch of the target animal, but certain trap sizes are illegal to use in some situations depending on state law. A brief discussions of trapping laws will occur later on in this paper. Regardless of the law, however, choosing a properly sized trap is arguably the most important decision that a trapper will make. Improperly sized traps, especially if one chooses a trap that is too large, can at best cause discomfort to a trapped animal or at worst seriously injure or cripple wildlife.



Figure 2. Single and double Long-Spring Foothold Traps

TYPES OF TRAPS:

Modern trap styles include foothold, body-gripping, cable snares, colony traps, and cage traps. Each of these style traps can have unique advantages and disadvantages, but all when properly set can succeed in catching wildlife. In this section, we will discuss each type of trap in a technical sense and later on we will discuss what traps should be used for target wildlife species.

FOOTHOLD:

The foothold trap is the oldest style of trap, and has been instrumental in the reintroduction of many mammalian species such as river otters and gray wolves. Modern footholds, in contrast to antiquated versions, have gone through extensive research to ensure humane capture of wildlife. Most injuries to animals from footholds come from user error and not from trap design. As the name implies, this trap is designed to capture and hold an animal's foot. People often incorrectly use the phrase leghold when describing these traps; however, if the correct trap is selected for the target animal only the foot should be caught in the trap. Catching only the foot prevents most injuries to target animals and can allow for the release of non-target animals (bycatch).

Footholds are comprised of 6 main parts: the jaws, the pan, the dog, the spring(s), the levers, and the base (Figure 1 and 2). The jaws of the foothold are thin strips of metal that will be holding the animal in the trap. The pan and the

dog allow the trap to be set. The pan is a flat piece of metal what sits inside the jaws, while the dog is located outside the jaws and connects to the pan over one of the jaws when the trap is set. The spring sets tension on the pan and dog so that the trap can be set-off by the animal once it steps on the pan. The levers allow the trapper to compress the springs to set the trap. The base holds everything together and will help the trapper level and steady the trap when setting it for an animal. In addition to the main trap parts, footholds usually come equipped with a chain to stake the trap in the ground. Setting a foothold trap requires compressing the spring(s) and connecting the dog with the pan over the jaw to provide tension to the pan. A few variations in foothold design have been created, most of which focus on the jaw design, the number and type of springs, and the placement of the chain.

Foothold jaws traditionally were rounded; however, modern footholds can feature a squared jaw. The main difference to note between the two jaw shapes are the rounded jaws offer more holding potential as the springs are able to lock higher on the jaws, while the squared-jawed footholds can offer more area to catch an animal's foot. Another key variation to foothold jaws pertains to the surface area where the animal's foot will be caught. On a traditional (unmodified) foothold, the metal jaws are the same width across the entire catch surface and the closed jaws will completely touch. Offset jaws have a space between the catch surface of the jaws designed to hold the animal more comfortably in the trap and allow increased blood flow to the trapped foot. A few other types of jaw styles are double-jaws, padded-jaws, and laminated jaws. These types of jaws are created to provide greater surface area when holding an animal to help prevent injury as the greater surface area lessens the pressure to any one part of the foot. All these different jaw types have their advantages and disadvantages so one must decide on their own which one they should use.

Springs are important to any trap as they are the part of the trap that provides power by which the trap will catch and hold the animal. Traditional traps were known as long springs where the spring of the traps resembled a folded V-shaped piece of steel and stuck off the side of the trap. As the V-shape is compressed downward tension built up allowing for the trap to be set. More power is provided to larger sized long spring traps by increasing the size of the spring and adding an extra spring to the other side of the trap.

A newer version of footholds was invented in the 20th century that made the foothold trap more compact than the long spring version. These more modern versions are known as coil spring traps and derive their power from coiled springs that sit underneath the trap. With coil spring traps, smaller size traps may have one spring and larger traps will have two. A recent update to the design allows four springs to be placed on a coil spring, allowing for more

power and a faster catch time. One must note here that power and speed of catch are rarely a concern in a properly placed trap, and increased power provided by four coil springs can cause serious injury to a captured animal. Therefore, the trapper must be prudent in his/her selection of which kind of springs and the amount of power used. Furthermore, neither long springs nor coiled springs are better than the other. Both will catch and hold animals humanely and the long spring, although older, has been used to trap animals effectively for centuries. Trap spring design used in the modern era is merely trapper preference.

The placement of the chain by which the trap is staked in the ground occurs at two possible locations on the trap. The first is on the side of the trap, while the second is on the bottom. Traditionally, the chain was attached to the side of the traps as all traps were long spring where the chain is attached to the spring itself. With the advent of coil spring traps, chain placement could be altered so that the chain was affixed to the bottom of the trap base; however, some coil spring trap chains are attached to the side of the trap. On coil spring traps a bottom chain is preferable to a side chain. As an animal pulls in the trap a bottom chain will put equal pressure on all parts of the foot whereas a side chain will create a higher pressure on one side which increases the likelihood of foot injury.

BODY-GRIPPING:

Body-gripping traps, also known commonly as a Coniber™, were invented in the mid-1900's and are designed to be humane kill traps (Figure 3).

These traps are designed to set travel routes for target animals and lethally intercept them. The indiscriminate nature of traps must be taken into account even more when using body-gripping traps. Since these style traps are designed to kill there can be no releasing non-target species.

Body gripping traps are composed of similar part to that of a foothold trap: jaws, trigger, dog, and spring(s). Common body-gripping traps look like two wire squares connected by a point on two opposing sides allowing the squares to rotate about each other. The jaws of the body-gripping trap are the wire squares that will hold the animal once set off. The springs of a body-gripping are similar to that of a long spring, looking like a V-shaped wire with a coil at its vertex attached to the side of the trap. The springs are compressed to provide power. The trigger of a body-gripping trap is a V-shaped wire that hangs inside the square with the dog holding the trigger in place from outside the jaws so that the animal will set the trap off as it walks through the trap. Body-gripping traps of medium size or larger also come equipped with wire hooks called safety latches on the springs to aid in trap setting and safety. Setting a body-gripping trap requires compressing the spring(s) and rotating the squares halfway around so that the dog can hook to the opposite jaw through the trigger. Body-gripping traps all follow a basic design with few modifications compared to footholds.

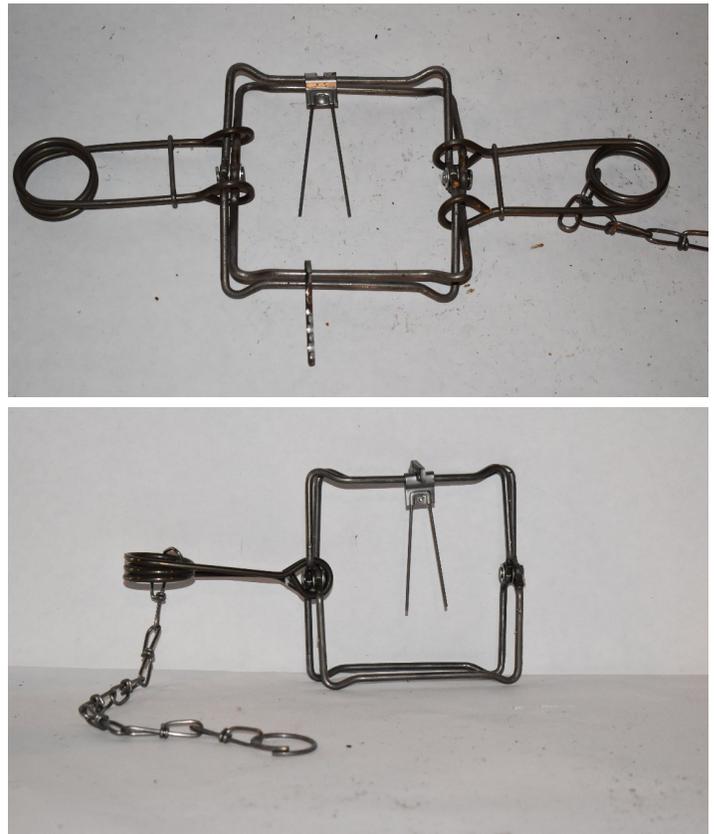


Figure 3. Coniber Trap

CABLE SNARE:

Snares in their most basic form are loops of wire/cable that catch target animals around the neck, body, or foot (Figure 4). Modern snares are slightly more complicated as some have a one-way or locking slide that keeps the snare from loosening, and some are equipped with a deer stop to keep from catching deer rather than the target animals. Regardless of these modern modifications which make snares more effective and humane, the basic principles and look of a snare has not changed since its invention thousands of years ago. Snares like body-gripping traps are set in travel

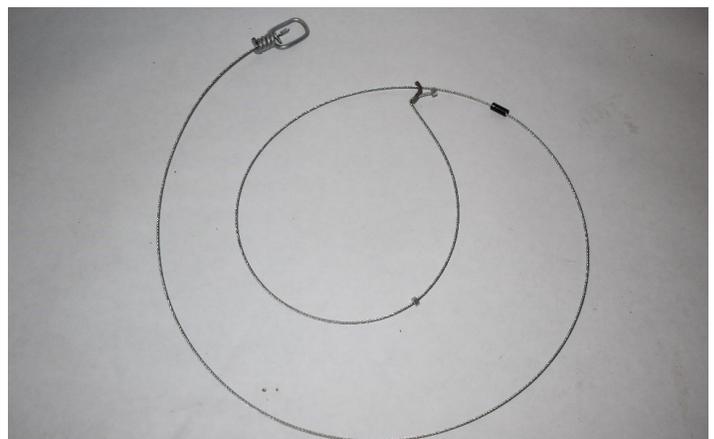


Figure 4. Cable Trap

routes of target animals. The size of the snare loop and height off the ground are dependent on the target animal.

Therefore, unlike some other traps the placement height and size of the snare loop can select for target species while preventing bycatch.

Usually, cable snare size is mentioned in two parts: diameter and weave. Diameter refers to the overall thickness of the cable. Typically, the thicker the cable the greater the strength. Weave of cable is the number of cable segments in the overall cable and the number of wire strands that make up a cable segment. For instance, a 7 x 7 cable weave has 7 strands of wire per cable segment and 7 segments in the overall cable snare; a 1 x 19 weave has 1 cable segment with 19 wire strands twisted together to form that segment. The thickness of these two common cable snare weaves is the same since the individual wire strands are thinner in the 7 x 7; however, the 7 x 7 weave is more flexible than the 1 x 19. In most cases, the weave of the snare chosen by the trapper is dictated by trapper preference not the target animal nor the law and regulations.

COLONY OR FUNNEL TRAP:

Colony traps are a specific type of trap mainly used for muskrats or other aquatic mammals in the fur trade, but adaptations have been made in designs to catch birds, squirrels, fish, and reptiles (Figure 5). In this paper we are referring to the former type of colony trap targeting aquatic mammals. These traps resemble a long cage made out of wire that have either one-way doors or funnels that narrow as one enters the trap allowing the animal to enter, but not

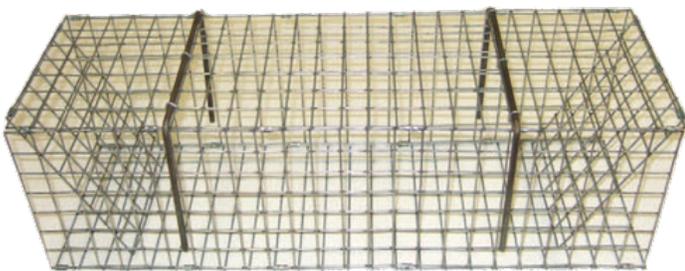


Figure 5. Colony Trap

exit the trap. Typically, these traps are placed underwater along travel corridors so that captured animals will drown in the trap. Colony traps, although indiscriminate in the sense that they will kill whatever air-breathing animal that enters it, are effective at reducing by catch because they enable the trapper to set the trap on travel routes only used by the target animal (i.e., entrances to a muskrat hut/den). Colony traps, even though their use is limited, can be hyper-effective when used properly and in good locations.

CAGE TRAP:

Cage traps are arguably the most common type of trap used in urban settings (Figure 6). Cage traps are neither designed to kill the captured animal nor have dangerous force to catch an animal, and in that sense have become incredi-



Figure 6. Cage Trap

bly popular amongst those trapping in areas with people or domestic animals present.

Cage traps look similar to colony traps, but differ in that cage traps have spring-loaded, or more commonly gravity-dropping, doors. Cage traps have a pan trigger located inside the trap that once stepped on shuts the door and traps the animal inside. The trigger is typically set by attaching levers that hold the door open to the pan trigger. Cage traps are usually used in conjunction with bait to lure the target animal inside. One thing to note with cage traps is, although the target animal is captured alive, one should not consider them non-killing traps. Rather than relocating the captured animal it is recommended that the target animal be humanely euthanized inside the trap. Releasing animals to a different location may solve an individual's problem with that animal in an emotionally satisfying manner, but can potentially have unintended consequences on the ecosystem as a whole such as disease transmission, social hierarchy disruption in wildlife populations, etc.

LAWS PERTAINING TO TRAPPING WILDLIFE:

For a private individual trapping is often used for one of two reasons: 1) an individual is interested in harvesting the fur or meat of an animal, or 2) an individual wishes to remove wildlife that is causing a human-wildlife conflict. Both reasons are legitimate, but have some different laws pertaining to each situation. Here we will give a brief overview, but by no means a comprehensive discussion, on wildlife trapping laws.

Fur or meat harvesting must be done with a license within the designated trapping season for the target species set by the state wildlife agency. Additionally, there are state regulations in place for furbearers that limit trap size, type, features, etc. depending on the species or trapping situations. For instance, in Kentucky larger-sized body-gripping traps (i.e., $>7\frac{1}{2}$ in) and larger foothold sizes (>6 in) can only be set in water. Additionally, some species (such as the coyote in Kentucky) can be hunted year-round, but not trapped for fur outside of the designated season. These regulations are created to maximize the use of the animal and ensure

capture occurs during times when pelts can be utilized, protect non-target wildlife, and reduce potential conflicts with multiple use activities on public lands. Make sure to read state regulations for trapping furbearers as regulations can change year by year.

For nuisance wildlife trapping the regulations are slightly more liberal as traps can be placed any time of the year that the damage is occurring; however, other trapping regulations must still be followed and care must be taken to avoid catching bycatch out of season that is not causing a human-wildlife conflict. In Kentucky, KRS 150.170 allows property owners to protect property from wildlife damage throughout the year, but animals trapped for nuisance purpose outside of the trapping season cannot be salvaged for fur but meat can be consumed. Some reporting criteria may still be required especially for some furbearers (i.e., river otters). Checking with the state wildlife agency for regulations and guidelines prior to removing a nuisance wildlife species is always advised. If one is unsure of their ability to effectively trap the nuisance wildlife species, one can contact a state licensed Nuisance Wildlife Control Operator (NWCO) to assist with the problem animal(s) or reach out to local trappers who may be willing to aid in trapping the animal. Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources maintain a website that allows you to locate either a NWCO or local trapper utilizing the wildlife species causing the issue and the county where the problem is occurring.

THESE WEBSITES CAN BE FOUND HERE:

Find a trapper: <https://app.fw.ky.gov/furtrapper/search.aspx>

Find a NWCO: <https://app.fw.ky.gov/nuisancecontrol/>

TRAPS TO USE FOR COMMON FURBEARERS AND MAMMALIAN PESTS

RACCOON:

Traps for raccoons are variable as the species are relatively easy to catch in most trap types. Traps recommended for raccoons are footholds, body-gripping, cable snares, and cage traps. Recommended foot hold trap sizes are: 3 $\frac{1}{16}$ in for an unmodified coil spring, 4 $\frac{5}{16}$ to 4 $\frac{1}{16}$ in for a double-jawed coil spring, and 3 $\frac{3}{8}$ ins for a double-jawed long spring. Raccoons have a habit of chewing their foot off in larger traps due to reduced blood flow so larger traps are not recommended unless used in lethal water sets. An alternative to the standard foothold has been created known as an enclosed foothold, or commonly referred to as “dog-proof” raccoon trap (Figure 7). This trap is a metal enclosure with a lever at the bottom to set-off the trap when moved. The enclosure is filled with bait and as the raccoon digs the bait out, it sets off the trap. The advantage to this trap is that it excludes almost every other species of animal except opossums and the raccoon cannot chew at its foot in an attempt to escape the trap. For this reason, enclosed foothold traps, sometimes called dog-proof traps (Figure 7), are popular for raccoon trappers in areas with a lot of other



Figure 7. Dog-proof trap

potential non-target animals and urban areas. The recommended size for an enclosed foothold trap has an opening diameter of 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ in and a trigger depth of 2 $\frac{1}{8}$ to 2 $\frac{3}{8}$ in. Body gripping traps sized of 6 to 8 in are appropriate for raccoons. Cage traps should be at least 32 x 10 x 12.75 inches with 1 x 1 inch 12-gauge galvanized wire mesh. Raccoons can damage poorly constructed cage traps, so obtaining a quality constructed trap is a must.

OPOSSUM:

Like raccoons, opossums have a variety of options for traps. Opossums have fragile bones that break easily; therefore, appropriate trap choice is essential to reduce chance of injury. Traps recommended for opossums are footholds, body-gripping, cable snares, and cage traps. Foothold traps for possums will need jaw modifications (i.e., padded, laminated, double, or offset) to aid in a humane catch by decreasing the amount of force impacting the foot during the catch.

Recommended foothold traps are padded-jaw coil spring 3 $\frac{3}{8}$ to 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ in; double-jawed coil spring sized 4 $\frac{5}{16}$ - 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ ins; offset or laminated-jaw coil spring sized 5 in. The recommended cage trap is the same size as that for a raccoon.

SKUNK:

Skunks can be troublesome to trap due to their noxious defensive spray and small limbs. Traps recommended for skunks are body gripping or cage traps. Body gripping traps should be sized 6 - 6 $\frac{15}{16}$ in. (NOTE: When caught in body gripping traps, the stress or surprise of being caught can cause skunks to spray). Cage traps can be the same size trap for raccoons and opossums, but one can also use a 24 x 7 x 7 inch cage trap with 1 x 1 inch 12-gauge galvanized wire mesh.

GROUNDHOG:

Groundhogs can be difficult to trap using some trap types. Recommended traps for groundhogs are footholds, body-gripping, or cage traps. If one knows where the groundhog hole is located, a body gripping trap sized 6 to 8 in is recommended. The same cage trap as a raccoon or opossum is recommended for groundhogs. Care should be

taken when using body gripping traps at burrow (sometimes referred to as groundhog holes) entrances since many other animals will use those holes including barn cats. When in doubt use a foot-hold or cage trap.

RED FOX:

For red foxes, like most medium to large canines, the two type of traps most effective are foothold or cable snares. Foothold trap options that are recommended are padded jaw coil spring sized 4³/₁₆ - 5³/₁₆ in, unmodified coil spring sized 4¹/₂ - 5¹/₂ in, and offset or laminated-jaw coil spring sized 4⁷/₁₆ - 5¹/₂ in. Snares for foxes should be 48 - 60 inches long made from 1/16 or 5/64 in cable with a loop diameter of 6 to 8 in.

GRAY FOX:

Gray foxes are slightly smaller than red foxes and so require slightly smaller trapping equipment. Recommended traps for gray foxes include foothold, cable snares, body gripping, snares, and cage traps. Foothold options include 4³/₁₆ - 4¹/₂ in sized padded-jawed coil spring, 4 1/2 in double-jawed coil spring, and 3³/₄ - 5³/₁₆ in offset or laminated-jaw coil spring. The recommended cage trap size is the same as that for a raccoon. Snares for foxes should be 48- 60 inches long made from 1/16 or 5/64 in cable with a loop diameter of 6 - 8 in.

COYOTE:

Coyotes are the largest canine in the eastern United States. Traps that can be used for coyotes are footholds and cable snares. Foothold options are 4¹/₂ to 6¹/₂ in padded-jaw coil

springs, 5 to 5¹/₄ in unmodified coil spring, and 5¹/₁₆ - 6¹/₂ inch offset or laminated-jaw coil spring. Cable snare size recommended for coyotes is 48 - 60 inches long made from 5/64 or 1/8 in cable with a loop diameter of 10 to 12 in.

BOBCAT:

Three trap types are recommended for bobcats: footholds, snares, and cage traps. Foothold options are either coil spring or long spring traps including 4¹/₂ - 6¹/₈ in unmodified coil spring, 4¹/₂ - 5³/₁₆ in padded-jaw coil spring, and 5¹/₁₆ - 6¹/₁₆ in offset or laminated-jaw coil spring. (NOTE: Some large-sized footholds are illegal to set on land in some states). Recommended cage trap size is larger than that of other animals previously mentioned measuring 42 x 15 x 20 in with 1 x 2 in 12 gauge galvanized wire mesh. Snares for bobcats should be 48 - 60 in long made from 1/8 or 5/64 in cable with a loop diameter of 6 - 8 in.

OTTER:

Otters can be caught on land, but are most commonly caught in the water. Thus, many trap sets designed for otters are submersion sets. Two trap types are recommended for otters: footholds and body-gripping traps. Foothold options include 5 in unmodified coil spring or long spring and 3³/₈ in unmodified or double-jawed long spring. Body-gripping sizes range 6⁷/₈ - 9³/₄ in.

BEAVER:

Traps for beaver are similar to those for otter and the location sets is also similar. Therefore, care must be taken to minimize otter bycatch when trapping exclusively for

		TARGET WILDLIFE SPECIES								
		Raccoon	Opossum	Red Fox	Gray Fox	Coyote	Bobcat	Otter	Beaver	
TYPES OF TRAPS	Foothold	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	Body-gripping	✓	✓		✓			✓	✓	
	Cable Snare	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
	Cage Trap	✓	✓		✓		✓		✓	

Table 1. Wildlife Trapping Table

beaver. Modifications to triggers, additions of loop stops on cable snares, etc. can help exclude otters from beaver sets. Traps for beaver include foothold traps, body-gripping traps, cage traps, and cable snares. (NOTE: Some traps recommended for beaver may be illegal in some instances in some states; therefore, check applicable state laws before setting traps for beavers). Footholds for beavers are recommended to be used with submersion-drowning sets only.

Foothold options include 5 to 7¼ in for coiled and long spring trap styles. Body-gripping trap can be used on land or in water for beavers. Body gripping trap can range in size from 6¾ - 11 in and some are even larger. Cable snares used for beaver depend on the scenario for beaver. For dry land snaring, one can use 3/32 in diameter cable with a 7 x 7 or 1 x 19 weave, or a 1/8 inch diameter cable with a 7 x 7 weave. For submersion-drowning sets, one can use the above cable dimensions or a 1/16 in diameter cable with a 1 x 19 weave. The snare loop for beaver should be 9 to 10 in.

MINK:

Traps for mink can be set on land or in water, and type styles include foothold and body-gripping traps. Foothold trap options 3¾ inch unmodified for both coiled and long spring trap styles. Body-gripping traps can be used on land or in water. Land body-gripping traps must be a minimum of 4¾ in and have double springs. Water submersion-drowning body-gripping trap options can be 4¾ or 4¾ in in size with either one or two springs,

MUSKRAT:

Musk rats, similar to other aquatic mammals like beavers, can be trapped in or out of the water. When trapped out of the water, submersion-drowning sets are usually used. Trap types used for muskrats are foothold, body-gripping, and colony traps. Foothold trap options include 3¾ in unmodified coilspring, unmodified, or double-jawed long spring. Body gripping trap size can range from 4¾ - 5 in. Colony traps should measure 5 x 5 x 30 in or similar and be completely submerged when used.

WEASEL:

Traps for weasels are few as weasels are the smallest of the typical furbearers. Trap options include 4½ in unmodified long springs or traditional 2½ snap traps. (Snap traps are simply traditional rat traps). Weasel boxes are an effective option when using a snap trap. Weasel boxes are merely long, enclosed boxes with a 1¾ in hole in one end with a snap trap placed inside the box below the entrance hole and a bait or lure placed behind the snap trap. Weasel boxes can be purchased or home-made.

SQUIRRELS AND CHIPMUNKS:

Squirrels and chipmunks are not common furbearers so the same standards have not been as thoroughly researched as traditionally trapped species. However, squirrels and chipmunks can be easily caught in a humane method using a cage trap. Squirrels can be caught in cage traps with similar sizes to that of a skunk; whereas, chipmunks will require a small sized trap with a sensitive trigger. Chipmunks may be trapped and killed humanely utilizing a rat sized snap trap.

		TARGET WILDLIFE SPECIES							
		Skunk	Groundhog	Mink	Muskrat	Weasel	Squirrel	Chipmunk	Rabbit
TYPES OF TRAPS	Foothold		✓	✓	✓	✓			
	Body-Gripping	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓
	Cable Snare								✓
	Cage Trap	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓
	Colony/ Funnel Trap				✓				
	Snap Trap						✓	✓	

Table 2. Wildlife Trapping Table

RABBITS:

Trap options for rabbits include cage traps, cable snares, or body gripping traps. Some suggest cage traps for rabbits are best made of wood rather than the wire manufactured ones, but wire cage traps can be used. Body-gripping traps sized 4½ - 6 in is recommended. Recommended size for cable snares is 7 x 7¼ in galvanized cable with a 5 to 5½ in loop.

CONCLUSION:

Trapping is an effective way to harvest wildlife and is an important tool in wildlife management especially in human-wildlife conflict mitigation. Selecting a proper trap for a target animal is imperative to a humane catch, and understanding trap size, trap type, and the recommended traps for the animal one is targeting can minimize animal discomfort and prevent injury. Nonetheless, trap selection is just one item on a long list of factors that go into being a good trapper. Selecting a trap is the first, albeit important, step.

Cooperative Extension Service

Agriculture and Natural Resources
Family and Consumer Sciences
4-H Youth Development
Community and Economic Development

MARTIN-GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT

Educational programs of Kentucky Cooperative Extension serve all people regardless of economic or social status and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, creed, religion, political belief, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, marital status, genetic information, age, veteran status, physical or mental disability or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity. Reasonable accommodation of disability may be available with prior notice. Program information may be made available in languages other than English. University of Kentucky, Kentucky State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Kentucky Counties, Cooperating. Lexington, KY 40506



Disabilities
accommodated
with prior notification.