Click to prove you're human

Leghold traps are manufactured in a variety of styles including longspring trap, coilspring trap, jump trap or underspring trap, and padded trap. They come in many sizes and must be matched to the size of the animal being trapped. Leghold traps may be used on land and water. Selection and Maintenance Overview of Traps Stakes and Earth Anchors Drags, Grapples, Shock Springs, and Swivels Equipment for Water Trapping Equipment for Land Trapping Page 2 Snares or cable devices use a loop of cable to catch a furbearer by the neck, body, or leg. Cable devices use a loop of cable to catch a furbearer by the neck, body, or leg. They can be used on land or in water. The two types of cable devices are non-powered and powered.Non-Powered Cable DevicesNon-powered cable devices use the animal's forward movement to catch the animal in the loop.These devices may be used to catch larger furbearers such as the beaver, fox, or coyote. The animal is caught by the neck or body.A sliding lock is used to form the loop of cable. This lock is either relaxing or non-relaxing.Relaxing locks slide in both directions along the cable. If a trapped animal pulls, the loop gets tighter. When the animal relaxes, the loop stops tightening.Non-relaxing locks slide only in one direction. If a trapped animal pulls, the loop only gets tighter. The loop does not relax if the animal relaxes.These devices should include a swivel that allows the loop to turn in the same direction as the animal. This prevents the cable from twisting or kinking.The device should be placed in an area where a trapped animal will have freedom of movement. Make sure the animal cannot tangle the cable on brush, fences, or other objects. The animal should not be able to reach anything it can climb over and then be suspended with its feet off the ground.Cable devices must be used very carefully as they can trap livestock, deer, or other non-target animals. Devices with loop stops or break-away locks can help avoid this problem.Loop stops can be used to prevent the loop from opening or closing more than a certain amount. A maximum stop prevents the loop from opening enough to accommodate the head or body of a large non-target animal. A minimum stop prevents the loop from closing enough to hold the foot of a non-target animal.A break-away lock can be used to allow larger animals (such as deer) to break free.Powered Cable DevicesPowered cable devices use springs or another mechanical device to close the loop of cable.A foothold cable device is similar to a foothold trap, but it uses a cable instead of jaws. The cable is set in a loop. When the furbearer steps on the trap pan, springs are released and the loop tightens around the animal's foot. A stop lock keeps the cable from tightening more than a certain amount. This allows smaller non-target animals to escape.A kill-type powered cable device has heavy springs. These springs pull the cable tight around a trapped animal's neck or body, killing the animal. Page 3 To hold a captured animal, your traps or cable devices must be attached to something. Foothold traps are normally attached to a chain. For some traps, you may need wire. The wire, chain, or cable device is attached to a stake, drag, or other object that anchors the trap or restrains the trapped animal in some way. Make sure the anchoring system is strong enough to hold the trapped animal.StakesStakes must be long enough to hold the largest animal you might catch. In most cases, 18 inches to 24 inches is a good length for land sets. In sandy soil, you'll need longer stakes.For some stronger animals, a single stake is not enough to hold the trap. In these cases, consider cross-staking two stakes.It is very important to build all sets so that the stakes will hold. An animal that escapes with a trap on its foot or a cable around its body will be injured. If your stakes will not hold in a particular area, build your set in another location.Earth AnchorsEarth anchors are very strong attachments. They are driven into the ground with a tool.These devices must be dug out of the ground when you take down your set. Trap efficiency is important, so keep in mind that catch size is a limiting factor with certain types of traps. Factors to consider when selecting the type of pig trap that will best meet your needs are sounder size affordability weight and portability presence and numbers of nontarget species such as deer or black bear HIGH-TECH TRAPS Double Gate Camo Double Gate No Camo BOX TRAPS Box traps are simple to construct and less expensive than commercial traps made of steel. Also, because they are collapsible they require less space for transport and storage. Cons of Using a Box Trap Catch size per trapping effort is limited to a small number of pigs. The wooden panels of the box trap present a more confining appearance than wire panel traps, and they require more long-term maintenance. Also, the 8-foot side panels are heavy and can be difficult for one person to handle alone. Materials Box traps are rectangular or square structures made of wood fence panels constructed from 2-by-4-inch and 1-by-4-inch or 1-by-6-inch boards. Design The most common box trap design is 4 feet wide, 8 feet long, and 5 feet high with no fixed top or bottom. (A top is not necessary because the 5-foot-high side panels prevent pigs from climbing out). Jump bars or corner covers can be installed to prevent captured pigs from climbing out of box traps. However, do not cover a trap's top entirely. See link on nontarget species. Trap Doors The trap is usually equipped with a single-catch wooden drop door, but it also can be equipped with a trap door, such as the saloon-style door. Box traps are heavy enough that pigs usually are unable to root under the sides and use their head to lift the trap and escape. However, it is still best to secure box traps by driving a steel T-post into the ground opposite corners of the front and back and fastening the trap sides to the T-posts with wire. The box trap can be transported in panels and assembled on location using 3-inch exterior decking screws (nails are not recommended). A trip wire or root stick is the best trigger mechanism to use with box traps. CAGE TRAPS Cage traps may have an advantage over wooden box traps because the wire panel construction is thought to present a more open and less confining appearance to wild pigs. Also, the trap designs usually allow for easy one-person transport and setup. Cons of Using a Cage Trap Catch size per trapping effort is limited to a small numbers of pigs. Traps with overhead panels are reason for concern because they can prevent the escape or release of nontarget species such as deer and black bear. Materials Cage traps are constructed from heavy-gauge wire livestock panels welded to a steel angle iron or square tubing frame. Designs The most common cage trap design is a rectangular enclosure ranging in size from 4 feet high, 6 feet long, and 4 feet wide to 5 feet high, 12 feet long, and 4 feet wide. A more recent design is a circular cage trap with wire livestock panels welded to a round steel frame (similar to livestock hay rings). The advantage of this design is its portability; it can be rolled onto a trailer or rolled along the ground. Another design is similar to the box trap and is made up of wire livestock panels welded to individual steel frames and fastened together with pins or bolts. Panels and Doors Commercially available cage traps often have both a top (overhead) and bottom (floor) panel and are equipped with a spring-loaded, single-catch or multicatch trap door at one end of the cage. Cage traps less than 5 feet tall should include a top panel to prevent pigs from escaping over the sides. Bottom or floor panels are not necessary for well-built cage traps. In fact, many experienced pig trappers recommend not using floor panels. Their reasoning is that most pigs do not like the feel of the wire panel underfoot and will balk at fully entering the trap. To prevent large pigs caught in this type of trap from lifting the trap and escaping underneath the side panels, wire the trap to T-posts driven into the ground at opposite front and back corners. Cage Trap for Wild Pigs Round Cage Trap for Wild Boar Wild Pig in a Cage Trap CORRAL TRAPS Corral size can be easily adjusted by adding or taking away livestock panels, allowing the trap to be enlarged for larger sounders. The open top allows for the escape of nontarget species, and the traps larger size combined with the open appearance of the livestock panels may appear less threatening to trap-shy pigs. Cons of Using a Corral Trap Corral traps require more setup time than box and cage traps. The 16-foot livestock panels may need to be cut in half for transport, thus requiring more assembly time and effort, and tree roots in wooded habitats sometime pose a problem for driving and pulling T-posts. A T-post puller is a wise investment. View plans for a corral trap Corral traps are the most effective type of trap for catching large groups of pigs. Though corral traps can vary in shape, many experienced pig trappers recommend a circular trap because it prevents captured pigs from piling into corners and escaping over the top. Materials Corral traps can be constructed using heavy-gauge wire or U-bolts to fasten 16-foot by 5-foot welded wire livestock panels to 6-foot steel T-posts. Corral traps require more setup time, but the potential capture rates are much higher. Three or four 16-foot by 5-foot panels will produce a trap of sufficient size for catching most sounder groups. You can easily expand the traps size by adding more livestock panels. How To Build It To build a circular corral trap, begin by overlapping the livestock panel ends 1 foot and securing the adjoining ends using nylon zip ties or cable ties. Be sure to leave two panel ends free to accommodate the trap door. (Either a single-catch or multicatch trap door can be used.) Next, shape the corral by pushing or pulling the joined panels in or out as you work them into a circle. Once the corral is fashioned to your liking, set the trap door in place and drive T-posts into the ground immediately next to and on each side of the trap door. Attach the loose panel ends securely to both the trap door frame and T-posts with heavy-gauge wire. Trap Door If using a trap door that does not extend to a height of 5 feet, you will need to account for the height difference to prevent pigs from jumping over the trap door. There are two ways to do this: If the trap door is positioned between the ends of two livestock panels as described above, use a piece of livestock panel or other heavy-duty mesh wire to cover the opening above the trap door. Simply cut an opening for the trap door in the middle of one of the 16-foot livestock panels. Be sure to install T-posts on each side of the trap door for additional support and use heavy-gauge wire to attach the door to the livestock panel and T-posts. With the trap door securely in place, finish the trap by working your way around the corral and driving a T-post in the ground every 8 feet on the outside of the panels (at the overlapped ends and the middle of each panel). For additional reinforcement, include an extra T-post four feet on each side of the door (the brunt of escape efforts will be focused on either side of the door). Use heavy-gauge wire to fasten the livestock panels to the T-posts every 1 foot beginning at ground level (five per T-post). Another option is to use U-bolts as fasteners (two to three per T-post). Corral Trap Outfitted with a Single-catch Wooden Drop Door. Corral Trap Outfitted with a Multi-catch Root Door. Wild Pigs Captured in a Corral Trap U-Bolt U-Bolt fastening a livestock panel to t-post Livestock Panels Livestock panels used in constructing wild pig traps should be of at least 4-gauge size and no less than 5 feet high. Though it is not impossible, only the rarest of pigs can jump a 5-foot-tall panel. A mesh size of 4 inches square or smaller will prevent small pigs from escaping through the panels. Page 2 The short answer is no, a box trap is not a live hold trap. While both types of traps are designed to capture animals without killing them, they operate on fundamentally different principles and have distinct characteristics. Understanding the nuances of these differences is crucial for anyone involved in wildlife management, pest control, or even just curious about the world of animal trapping.Understanding Box TrapsBox traps, often referred to as cage traps, are designed to enclose an animal within a contained space. They typically consist of a mesh or solid-walled box with a door mechanism that is triggered when an animal enters. The door then swings shut, effectively trapping the animal inside. The primary aim of a box trap is to hold the animal securely, but without causing physical harm.Key characteristics of box traps:Containment: The animal is completely contained within an enclosed space.Trigger Mechanism: The trap is activated by the animals presence, often by stepping on a pressure plate or disturbing a bait.Non-Lethal Capture: Box traps are designed to catch animals unharmed.Variety of Sizes: They are available in various sizes to target different species, from squirrels and rats to raccoons and even larger animals.Relatively Safe for Pets: Cage traps are often preferred in areas where pets may be present.Understanding Live Hold TrapsLive hold traps, specifically foothold traps, are designed to restrain an animal by its foot or limb. As the name suggests, they physically hold the animal, typically using a padded or smooth-jawed mechanism, to prevent its escape. While not intended to kill, they work by gripping a part of the animals body.Key characteristics of live hold traps:Physical Restraint: The trap physically holds the animal, usually by the foot.Trigger Mechanism: The trap is activated when the animal steps onto a pan or pressure plate.Designed to Prevent Escape: The gripping action is designed to hold the animal in place until it can be released or relocated.Versatile Use: Used historically and still today to capture various animals, from coyotes to muskrats.Controversial: Due to the potential for stress and injury, foothold traps are controversial and often regulated.Key Differences: Box Trap vs. Live Hold TrapThe fundamental difference between a box trap and a live hold trap lies in how they restrain an animal:Enclosure vs. Restraint: Box traps rely on enclosure, while foothold traps rely on physical restraint.Mechanism of Action: Box traps capture by shutting a door, whereas live hold traps work by gripping a body part.Safety and Humane Considerations: While both are considered live traps, box traps are generally considered more humane due to their lower risk of injury.Effectiveness: Live hold traps, especially leg-hold traps, often have a higher capture rate than box traps, but this comes with greater ethical considerations.The Misnomer of Live TrapIts important to understand why some organizations avoid using the term live trap. The term is somewhat vague, and it can be misleading. The term live trap implies that an animal will simply be captured and relocated harmlessly. However, the reality is that different types of traps, like the foothold trap, all capture animals alive, but the capture method and its implication can be very different. The term live trap is not precise enough when compared to the more accurate terms box trap or foothold trap. This is why the articles source, ICWDM.org, prefers not to use the term live trap.When to Choose Which Type of TrapChoosing the right trap depends on various factors:Target Species: Different species may be more effectively captured using different trap types. For example, raccoons, skunks, and opossums are often effectively caught in box traps, while animals like coyotes may be more challenging to capture in box traps.Location: The environment where you are trapping is important. Box traps might be more suitable in areas with pets or near buildings.Ethical Concerns: Consider the ethics and legalities surrounding the use of different traps.Practical Considerations: Ease of use, trap size, and available resources will also impact the choice.Importance of Proper Trap UseRegardless of the type of trap, its crucial to use it correctly. This includes:Following all local regulations and laws.Using proper bait to target the specific animal.Checking traps regularly (at least daily) to minimize stress and potential harm to the animal.Handling and relocating animals humanely.Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)Here are some frequently asked questions related to box and live hold traps:What animals are commonly caught in box traps?Raccoons, skunks, opossums, weasels, cats, stray cats, groundhogs, muskrats, chipmunks, rabbits, rats, and squirrels are often caught in box traps.Are box traps effective?Box traps are effective, but often less so than live hold traps for many animals. Research suggests that capture rates for non-carnivores are around 2.63% and 1.90% for carnivores, while leg-hold traps increase capture rates significantly.What is the best bait for a box trap?The best bait depends on the target species. Common baits include pet food, peanut butter, marshmallows, and fruits or vegetables.How big should a box trap be?Trap size depends on the animal youre trying to catch. Smaller traps (17 x 7 x 7) are suitable for small animals like chipmunks and squirrels, while medium traps (32 x 10 x 12) are good for animals like raccoons and skunks.Can animals escape live traps?Generally, animals cant escape live traps if they are properly set. However, if the animal pushes on the door in a specific way, they might be able to wiggle free. Thats why it is important to set and monitor traps correctly.How often should I check a live trap?Its crucial to check live traps at least once a day to minimize stress and potential harm to the captured animal.Is it illegal to release a trapped animal?In many cases, releasing a trapped animal without proper authorization can be illegal. Many areas have restrictions on relocating animals to avoid introducing diseases or disrupting the ecosystem.Why are some types of traps illegal?Certain traps, such as steel-jawed traps, are illegal because they are considered inhumane due to the risk of serious injury.Can I make a DIY live trap?Yes, its possible to construct your own live trap. However, its essential to ensure that the trap is safe, effective, and adheres to all local laws.What is a figure 4 deadfall trap?A figure 4 deadfall trap is a primitive trap that uses sticks to hold a heavy weight in place. When an animal triggers the sticks, the weight falls, killing the animal. It is not considered a live trap.What is the advantage of using a box trap?Box traps are relatively easy to use, lightweight, and less prone to freezing than other traps. They are also considered safer for pets and are less likely to injure captured animals when used properly.Are there disadvantages of using box traps?Box traps are less effective for large infestations, can be time-consuming as the trapper has to manually check each trap regularly, and some species avoid them.Are live traps inhumane?The term live traps cover a broad range of traps from box traps to leg holds. It can depend on the type of trap. Some live traps like box traps are considered more humane, while others like foothold traps can cause undue stress and are considered inhumane. It also depends on how carefully and ethically a trap is used.Why are corral traps preferred for wild hogs?Corral traps are preferred for wild hogs because they can trap entire groups of pigs. The circular design prevents pigs from piling up in corners, which can lead to escape.What should I do with an animal after capturing it in a live trap?After capturing an animal, assess its health and then transport it for release to a safe environment. If unsure where or how to release, contact your local wildlife conservation for advice. Foothold traps (also called "leghold" traps) are designed to catch an animal by the foot and restrain it. There are two types of foothold traps: coilspring traps and longspring traps. It is important to consider the size of the animal and select an appropriately sized foothold trap to use for it. A trap that is too large could grip the animal too high on the leg and cause injury. Always use the smallest trap that will reliably hold the animal. Missouri law limits the size of foothold traps that may be used on land. Check the trapping regulations in Wildlife Code of Missouri for more information. Foothold traps can be used on land or in the water. In land trapping, foothold traps offer an advantage because they restrain the animal but do not kill it. Non-target animals can be released alive from foothold traps that are set on land, which is important if a domestic animal is caught. When foothold traps are used in the water, they can be fastened so the captured animal will drown. Foothold traps can be used for any type of animal on land or in the water, and they are also easy to conceal. Some animals, like fox and coyote, are very wary, so foothold traps are a good choice for these animals. Body-gripping Traps Body gripping traps, also known as Conibear traps, are the most commonly used killing trap. When an animal triggers a body-gripping trap, two rotating jaws close on the animals neck or chest. In Missouri, these traps are generally used in water sets for mink, muskrat, beaver, and otter. Cable Restraints Cable restraints function differently than most other trapping devices. Cable restraints are made of multi-strand steel cable. To use a cable restraint, form the cable into a loop and suspend the loop over a trail that the animal is known to use. The animal enters the loop and tightens the cable restraint down on itself. The cable restraint is designed to capture the animal by the neck or body and restrain it like a dog on a leash. Cable restraints are recommended for coyotes and foxes in Missouri. Cage Traps Cage traps are sometimes called box traps or live traps. They are used to take animals alive, and the trap is in the shape of a box. The animal enters the box and a door closes behind it. The advantage of cage traps is they do not grip the animal, making release easy. Cage traps can be effective where the likelihood of capturing a domestic animal is high. These traps can be used safely around houses, barns, or other dwellings. One good use for cage traps is removing raccoons, opossums, and skunks from buildings. However, cage traps are expensive, bulky, and hard to transport. Because of this, they are not practical for everyday trapline use. Some animals, like fox and coyotes, will not readily enter a cage trap. Trapping involves the use of mechanical devices that capture animals without the trapper being present. Trapping is one of the most common and effective methods that landowners use for managing wildlife damage because traps are time savers. Traps work even when you are not present.ObjectivesList the different types of cage and box traps.Identify the parts of a cage and box trap.Describe different sets used to capture animals.Explain principles and techniques used to reduce capture of non-target animals.DefinitionsIn Module 5, Wildlife Control Methods, we reviewed the methods available to control wildlife. In this module, we will focus on the use of cage and box traps to manage wildlife that cause conflicts. Many people use the term live trap to identify traps that capture animals by imprisonment in a box. We find the term live trap to be misleading, as well as inaccurate, because some traps that grasp parts of the animals body (e.g., footholds or cable-restraints), also capture animals alive. Instead, we prefer to use the terms cage traps and box traps to identify devices that capture animals by imprisoning them. Cage traps have walls made of wire mesh. Box traps have solid walls usually made of wood, plastic, or sheet metal (Figure 1).Types of Cage & Box TrapsManufacturers produce cage traps (Figure 2) and box traps with different features. This section will discuss a few of the more important ones.Gravity vs. spring-loaded doors. Gravity doors, as the name suggests, means that when the trap is sprung, the door falls due to gravitational force. Spring-loaded doors close with the aid of a spring. Spring-loaded doors require the trapper to manually depress the spring to open the door.Figure 1. Cage trap (left), box trap (right). Photos by Stephen M. Vantassel.Each type of door has advantages and disadvantages. Gravity-door traps tend to be less expensive and dont have springs that can wear out. Non-target animals can be released easily by gently rolling the trap over on its top. The disadvantage is that animals sometimes roll the trap over and escape when the door opens. Spring-loaded doors allow fewer escapes because the door cant open if the trap is rolled over, and the door will close even when the trap is not on level ground.Figure 2. Main parts of a single-door cage trap. Photo by Stephen M. Vantassel.Single-door or two-door traps. Single-door traps are the most common type of cage and box trap. Bait is placed on one end and the animal must enter the other end to reach the bait. A two-door trap has an opening on both ends, giving the appearance of a tunnel to an animal.Traps for Homeowners vs. ProfessionalsManufacturers produce cage traps for homeowners (retail-grade) as well as professionals, such as wildlife control operators (WCOs). Although the traps may appear the same, closer inspection reveals they can be quite different. In general, retail-grade traps have thinner-gauge metal and wider mesh (i.e., 1- x 1- inch; Figure 3a). They may not have handle guards. Professional traps typically are made with 1- x -inch mesh for much of the cage (Figure 3b). The benefit of using traps with narrower mesh is that captured animals are less likely to tear up turf or damage items nearby. In addition, it is harder for them to scratch you as you carry the cage. Handles are positioned to keep the cage in balance, and the guards are large enough to protect your hands. Both versions are effective in capturing animals.Effective Use of TrapsThe apparent simplicity of cage and box trapping is deceiving. While setting cage or box traps does not require a college degree, effective trapping involves attention to details for improving capture success.Step 1. Safety first Always wear protective work gloves when handling traps. Gloves help protect you from cuts from sharp edges on the metal, as well as any contaminated material that may be adhering to the trap.Step 2. Know how to handle a trapped animal BEFORE you set a trapPeople often capture animals without a plan for handling them. This is particularly true for people who accidentally capture a skunk.Step 3. Know the target animalThe target species determines the size and type of trap needed. As a general rule, use the smallest trap necessary to capture the target animal. Smaller traps help you avoid captures of non-targets because smaller sizes make it hard for larger animals to enter.Figure 3a (top). A retail-grade squirrel trap. Photo by Woodstream Corp. Figure 3b (bottom). A professional-grade raccoon trap. Notice that the professional trap has smaller gaps in the mesh. Photo by Stephen M. Vantassel.Step 4. Choose a good locationPlace the trap so that the target animal can reach it easily. Place traps at least 12 inches away from sensitive items to prevent trapped animals from damaging personal property (Figure 4).Step 5. Set the trap so it does not wobbleEven though the ground may look level, it often has bumps and depressions that can cause a trap to wobble as the animal steps on the trap floor. Wobbly traps are empty traps. To ensure the trap is stabilized properly, scrape the soil to level it. Press down on various areas of the trap to see if it will tip.Figure 4. This raccoon grabbed a cord and wood and pulled them inside the trap. Photo by Stephen M. Vantassel.Step 6. Select the right set, and monitor traps on a daily basis Sets are discussed later in this module. Traps must be checked every day regardless of weather or holiday status. If you cant check the traps daily, either close the traps, or secure the doors so that they cannot close. If practical, check traps in the morning and evening so that animals will be in the trap for less time.Step 7. Use plenty of trapsSetting one trap can be effective; however, this is like hunting with one bullet. We recommend setting three traps when trying to capture animals squirrel-sized and larger. Use more when trying to capture smaller animals.Trapping SetsA set encompasses the use of the trap and its entire placement. Sets are categorized as baited, blind, and positive.Baited sets are the most common, and they rely on a lure or bait to attract an animal into the trap. Use bait that selectively attracts the target species.Trappers usually exploit an animals sense of smell. Bait a trap so that the odors of the food or lure have an opportunity to disperse into the air. One method uses a forked stick. Scoop out some of the bait from its container with the stem of the stick. Insert the stem towards the back half of the bait area of the cage trap, so that the forks grab onto the trap mesh, and allow the stem to dangle. Make sure that the stick will not move much in the wind. Failure to consider this may allow the animal to grab the bait without getting close enough to depress the treadle. With this method, the bait has very high exposure to air, while keeping bait off the ground and away from ants.An alternative bait stick consists of a T-shaped plastic (PVC) pipe with holes in it (Figure 5). The PVC pipe is long-lasting and will not be thrown off center when you cover the cage with a cloth. To use the PVC bait stick with liquid bait, attach a cap to the end of the PVC pipe. The location of the first drilled hole will determine the amount of liquid bait held. Push the end-cap on without using glue to allow the liquid bait to seep out slowly, permeating the area with attractant.Figure 5. PVC pipe bait stick. Photo by Stephen M. Vantassel.Liquid bait can also be held in a 2-inch PVC pipe (Figure 6.) Seal the bottom opening with an end cap and use a screw cap for the top. Drill holes in the upper portion so that odors can escape.Another way to bait a cage trap is by using trappers wire and cotton balls. This technique is useful for liquid-based baits and lures because cotton absorbs the liquid. Skewer six cotton balls with wire and bend the wire so they will not slide off. Make a loop in the other end to hang the wire from the cage. Hang the bait wire toward the back half of the bait area. As with any hanging method, make sure that the wire will not move much in the wind. Otherwise an animal may grab the bait without getting close enough to depress the treadle.Figure 6. This two-inch PVC pipe can hold liquid or loose bait. Photo by Stephen M. Vantassel.In situations where hanging bait is not possible or practical, use eye appeal. One WCO uses Chef Boyardee microwave lunch buckets to trap raccoons. The small white plastic bowls have lids with holes. Bait is placed in the bowl and covered with the lid. The white bowl attracts the raccoon, the holes allow the odor to disperse through the air, and the lid helps protect the bait from getting washed out by rain. Yogurt containers with holes cut in the lids also work. Ensure that baited containers weigh enough to prevent them from being blown over by the wind. Add small rocks to a container to keep it in place. Sight attractants are especially important for skunks or raccoons. Place marshmallows in the back of a trap to attract them in the dark.Blind sets rely on the movement of the animal to trigger the trap, and no bait is used. A two-door trap set in an animals trail is a classic example of a blind set (Figure 7).Advantages of this type of set include no bait to maintain or that might be refused by the animal, and the set only captures animals using the trail or path. The disadvantage is that these traps are larger and tend to be more expensive than single-door traps.Figure 7. Place a two-door trap on a trail to increase trapping success. Photo by Stephen M. Vantassel.Positive sets refer to traps placed over or in front of an entrance hole, and barricaded to funnel the animals(s) into the trap (Figure 8). Positive sets catch only problem animals as only animals exiting the hole can be captured. Positive sets are used to remove animals from under sheds, decks, or in den holes.Figure 8. A box trap is placed in front of a skunk hole and barricaded to force the skunk into the trap. Photo by Stephen M. Vantassel.Humane TrappingMany people mistakenly think that cage and box traps automatically are humane. The fact is that humane trapping involves not only the device, but also the skill of the trapper. Foothold traps used by an experienced trapper can be more humane than a cage trap used by an inexperienced landowner.A few simple steps can significantly improve the welfare of animals in cage and box traps. First, consider weather conditions and reduce the animals exposure to temperature and weather extremes. For example, cover half the length of a cage trap to provide an area where a caged animal can obtain shelter from wind, rain, sun, and prying eyes (Figure 9).Figure 9. Cover half the length of cage trap to provide cover to a trapped animal. Photo by Stephen M. Vantassel.Plastic box traps keep animals up to 12F warmer than comparable cage traps. While plastic traps provide greater warmth for animals in the winter, they may get too hot for animals in the summer. Likewise, cage traps may be too cold in the winter, but may be a better choice in the warmer months. Consider how wind, snow, rain, and sun will affect the trapped animal and try to minimize those impacts.Second, check traps frequently. As stated earlier, traps must be checked daily. If possible, check traps twice a day (morning and evening) to reduce the length of time an animal is in the trap.Third, use selective trapping techniques to reduce the likelihood of capturing non-target animals. Use as many of the approaches listed below as are practical.Use the smallest trap possible to catch the target animal.Locate traps where target animals are traveling.Use baits and lures that are less attractive to non-targets. For example, sweet baits such as molasses and sugar wafers are less attractive to house cats, but are desirable to raccoons.Close traps during the day when trapping nocturnal animals, and at dusk when trapping diurnal animals.Trapping has an important place when using IPM in wildlife damage management. Diligence in selecting a location, setting, and monitoring traps will ensure not only success but also the humane treatment of captured animals.Module 9 addresses what to do with animals that have been trapped. Some states (e.g., New York), do not allow landowners to move problem wildlife from their property. A WCO license or state permit may be required for live transport of wildlife.Questions for ReflectionWhy is it important to understand the different types of cage and box traps?Why is it inaccurate to use the term live trap to refer only to cage and box traps?What does it mean to trap humanely?Why is proper baiting technique important when using cage and box traps?List a few aspects involved in setting cage and box traps properly. Box traps are a popular and effective method for capturing animals in a humane and non-lethal way. These traps are commonly used by wildlife control professionals, animal rescue organizations, and even homeowners dealing with nuisance wildlife on their property. But what exactly is a box trap, and how does it work? In this article, we will explore the ins and outs of box traps, including interesting trends, common concerns, and expert quotes from professionals in the field.What Is A Box Trap?A box trap is a type of live animal trap that is designed to capture animals without harming them. It consists of a rectangular box with one or more entry points and a trigger mechanism that closes the door of the trap once the animal enters. Box traps are typically made of metal or wire mesh, allowing the captured animal to breathe and stay safe until it can be released back into the wild.Interesting Trends Related To Box Traps1. Increasing Demand For Humane Wildlife Control Methods: As awareness of animal welfare issues grows, there has been a steady increase in the demand for humane wildlife control methods such as box traps. People are becoming more conscious of the impact that trapping and relocating wildlife can have on animal populations, and are opting for non-lethal solutions instead.2. Technological Advancements In Trap Design: With advancements in technology, trap manufacturers have been able to develop more efficient and user-friendly box traps. Features such as remote triggers, motion sensors, and live streaming cameras have made it easier for professionals to monitor and capture animals using box traps.3. Education And Training Programs: Wildlife control professionals are now required to undergo specialized training and certification programs to use box traps effectively and ethically. These programs cover topics such as trap placement, animal behavior, and safe handling procedures to ensure the humane treatment of captured animals.4. DIY Trap Building: As box traps become more popular, there has been a rise in DIY trap building among homeowners and wildlife enthusiasts. Websites and online forums offer step-by-step guides and tutorials on how to build and set up box traps for trapping nuisance wildlife on private property.5. Legal Regulations On Trap Use: Many states and municipalities have implemented strict regulations on the use of box traps to protect both wildlife and humans. Professionals must adhere to guidelines on trap size, placement, and handling to avoid legal consequences and ensure the ethical treatment of captured animals.6. Collaboration With Conservation Organizations: Wildlife control professionals are increasingly collaborating with conservation organizations to develop sustainable trapping practices and promote wildlife conservation efforts. By working together, they can ensure the protection of endangered species and minimize the impact of trapping on wildlife populations.7. Public Awareness Campaigns: Animal welfare organizations and wildlife control professionals are launching public awareness campaigns to educate the public about the importance of using humane trapping methods like box traps. By raising awareness, they hope to reduce the use of cruel and inhumane trapping techniques and promote the ethical treatment of wildlife.Expert Quotes On Box Traps1. Box traps are a valuable tool for capturing animals in a safe and humane manner. By using these traps, we can minimize the stress and suffering of captured animals while effectively managing wildlife populations. Wildlife Biologist2. As a wildlife control professional, I have seen firsthand the benefits of using box traps to resolve conflicts between humans and wildlife. These traps allow us to capture and relocate animals without causing harm or distress. Wildlife Control Specialist3. Box traps are a versatile and effective solution for dealing with nuisance wildlife on private property. With proper training and knowledge, homeowners can use these traps safely and ethically to remove unwanted animals from their homes. Animal Rescue Volunteer4. I believe that the widespread adoption of box traps is a positive step towards promoting ethical and sustainable wildlife management practices. By using these traps responsibly, we can protect both animals and ecosystems for future generations. ConservationistCommon Concerns And Answers About Box Traps1. Will the animal be harmed in a box trap? No, box traps are designed to capture animals safely without causing harm. The traps have smooth edges and a secure door to prevent injuries to the captured animal.2. How long can an animal stay in a box trap? Animals should be released as soon as possible after capture to minimize stress and ensure their well-being. Professionals recommend checking the trap regularly and releasing the animal within 24 hours.3. Can box traps be used for all types of animals? Box traps are suitable for capturing a wide range of animals, including raccoons, squirrels, opossums, and rabbits. However, some larger or more aggressive animals may require a different type of trap for capture.4. Are box traps legal to use in all states? Laws regarding the use of box traps vary by state and municipality. It is important to check local regulations before setting up traps to avoid legal consequences.5. How should captured animals be released? Animals should be released in a safe and suitable location, away from human habitation. Professionals recommend releasing animals during daylight hours to give them the best chance of survival.6. Can box traps be reused? Yes, box traps are reusable and can be cleaned and disinfected between uses to prevent the spread of diseases. Regular maintenance and inspection of traps are essential for their effectiveness.7. Are box traps effective for long-term wildlife management? Box traps are a temporary solution for capturing and relocating nuisance wildlife. To address long-term wildlife management issues, professionals recommend implementing habitat modification and exclusion techniques.8. Do box traps attract non-target animals? Box traps can attract non-target animals if bait is used to lure the target species. Professionals recommend using non-scented bait or no bait at all to minimize the risk of capturing unintended species.9. Can box traps be used in urban areas? Yes, box traps can be used in urban areas to capture and relocate nuisance wildlife. However, professionals advise on proper trap placement and monitoring to prevent conflicts with humans.10. Are box traps safe for pets? Box traps are designed to capture wildlife and are not intended for use with domestic pets. Professionals recommend keeping pets indoors or secured in a separate area to prevent accidental trapping.11. How can I prevent animals from escaping from a box trap? To prevent animals from escaping, it is important to check the trap regularly and ensure that the door is securely closed. Professionals recommend using a lock or securing the trap to a stable object.12. Are box traps environmentally friendly? Box traps are considered environmentally friendly as they do not harm animals or disrupt ecosystems. Professionals recommend using biodegradable materials for trap construction to minimize environmental impact.13. Can box traps be used in harsh weather conditions? Box traps can be used in harsh weather conditions, but professionals recommend checking traps more frequently and providing shelter for captured animals to protect them from extreme temperatures.14. How should I dispose of a box trap? Box traps should be properly cleaned and disinfected before disposal to prevent the spread of diseases. Professionals recommend contacting local authorities for guidance on trap disposal.15. Are there alternatives to using box traps for wildlife control? Yes, there are alternative methods for wildlife control, such as habitat modification, exclusion fencing, and deterrents. Professionals recommend consulting with a wildlife control specialist to determine the most effective solution for specific wildlife issues.In conclusion, box traps are a humane and effective tool for capturing animals without causing harm. By staying informed about trap regulations, proper use, and ethical considerations, professionals and homeowners can safely manage wildlife conflicts and promote coexistence with animals. As the demand for humane wildlife control methods continues to grow, box traps will play a crucial role in protecting both animals and ecosystems for generations to come. This page contains resources on strategies to use box traps safely and responsibly to prevent injury to humans, domestic animals, and wildlife.Many people mistakenly call a cage or box trap a live trap. The ICWDM.org does not use this terminology because the term live trap is misleading and vague. It is vague and misleading because people assume that if a trap doesnt look like a box then it must be a kill trap. Nothing could be further from the truth. The fact is, most traps are live traps including, footholds, Collarum traps, snares, Belisle footsnare, Egg Trap, Duffer trap, and a wide variety of other limb restraint traps.Box traps come in two main varieties, solid wall and wire wall.Solid wall trap, called a box trap.Wire-walled trap, called a cage trap.Dangers of Cage Trapping1. Getting scratched or bitten as animal reaches through the cage.2. Getting sprayed when you are unprepared for the possibility of catching a skunk (to learn how to prepare for and/or handle trapped skunks see Releasing Skunks from Cage/Box Traps)3. Contracting infection cages have sharp edges, which can break the skin and expose it to the urine and fecal contamination on the wire.4. Parasite exposure fleas, ticks, lice, worms, and other organisms can move from the animal to the trapper.Strategies to Reduce Risks when Cage Trapping1. Wear Personal ProtectionSturdy leather gloves Long-sleeved shirtLong pantsShoes that fully cover the feet. No flip flops.Insect repellent, such as DEET, is recommended.2. Select the right trap. Like automobiles, some traps offer more safety features than others.Use professional, high-quality equipment. See Product Suppliers for WDM for ideas of key words to use for online searches.Box traps, with their solid walls, significantly reduce the risk of getting scratched or bitten. However, they will hold urine and feces on the floor of the trap, requiring cleaning.Cage traps with tight mesh walls, 1/2-inch by 1-inch weave, significantly reduces an animals ability to reach through the wire when compared to a 1-inch by 1-inch weave. However, traps with the the smaller mesh size are more expensive due to the increased amount of material.Consider traps with large handle guards (over 4 inches wide by 6-inches long).Traps with large handles (over three inches tall) allow for greater distance between the trap and ones hand.Gravity door traps (those traps that open automatically when rolled over) should have their doors wired shut prior to moving the trapped animal.3. Proper Use of TrapsAlways cover at least 50% of the cage trap with a cloth. Box traps dont need to be covered.Box traps hold heat better than cage traps and therefore should be used with greater caution in the warmer months to help protect the animal from overheating.Understand how to use your equipment BEFORE you begin trapping.Check traps every single day they are set!!! This means, weekends, holidays, etc.Always follow all government regulations for handling wildlife. Consult your government laws at State Agencies.Have a plan for how you will handle your catch (BEFORE) you begin trapping!!!Make sure your tetanus vaccination is up to date.If you become ill within 6 weeks of your trapping efforts, tell your doctor that you were working with wildlife.4. Additional Training Trap animals effectively with a range of . Explore the different types of traps, including pit traps, spring traps, snare traps, box traps, and foot-hold traps. Learn the unique features and effective uses of each type of trap to achieve your hunting goals.Pit TrapsPit traps are one of the most common and ancient types of hunting traps. Imagine digging a hole in the ground, and then covering it with a layer of branches and leaves to camouflage it. Sounds simple, right? Thats the basic principle behind pit traps, but theres more to it than meets the eye.Clap TrapA clap trap is a type of pit trap that relies on the power of gravity to capture its prey. It works by digging a pit with two trapdoors, one at each end. When a predator approaches, the trapdoors spring shut, trapping the animal. Its like being caught in a sudden, unexpected slam hence the name clap trap!Squirrel Cage TrapA squirrel cage trap, on the other hand, is designed to capture smaller animals, like rodents or birds. It works by digging a pit with a wire mesh cage at the bottom. When an animal falls into the pit, it gets trapped in the cage. The cage is usually baited with food to lure the animal in. Its like a big, underground birdcage no wings allowed!In this group of pit traps, weve seen how different designs can be used to capture a wide range of prey. Whether its a powerful clap or a cunning cage, pit traps have been a staple of hunting for centuries. So, the next time youre out in the woods, keep an eye out for these hidden traps and remember, its not always a good idea to follow your ears or your nose! Spring TrapsSpring traps are a type of hunting trap that uses stored energy to catch prey, providing a quick and humane kill. Theyre often used in conjunction with other trapping methods to increase success rates and minimize the risk of escape. Lets dive deeper into the world of

Why is the trap called the trap. Box trap name. What is a box trap. What makes trap trap.