Forêts, Faune et Parcs Québec

Best Trapping Practices

Fur Institute of Canada

The illustrations and data provided in these documents were inspired from the results of the trap testing completed through the work of the Trap Research and Development Committee of the Fur Institute of Canada. They are intended as general guidelines for trap users.

Text and design

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Fur Institute of Canada

Graphic design and illustrations

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Fédération des Trappeurs Gestionnaires du Québec

July 2018

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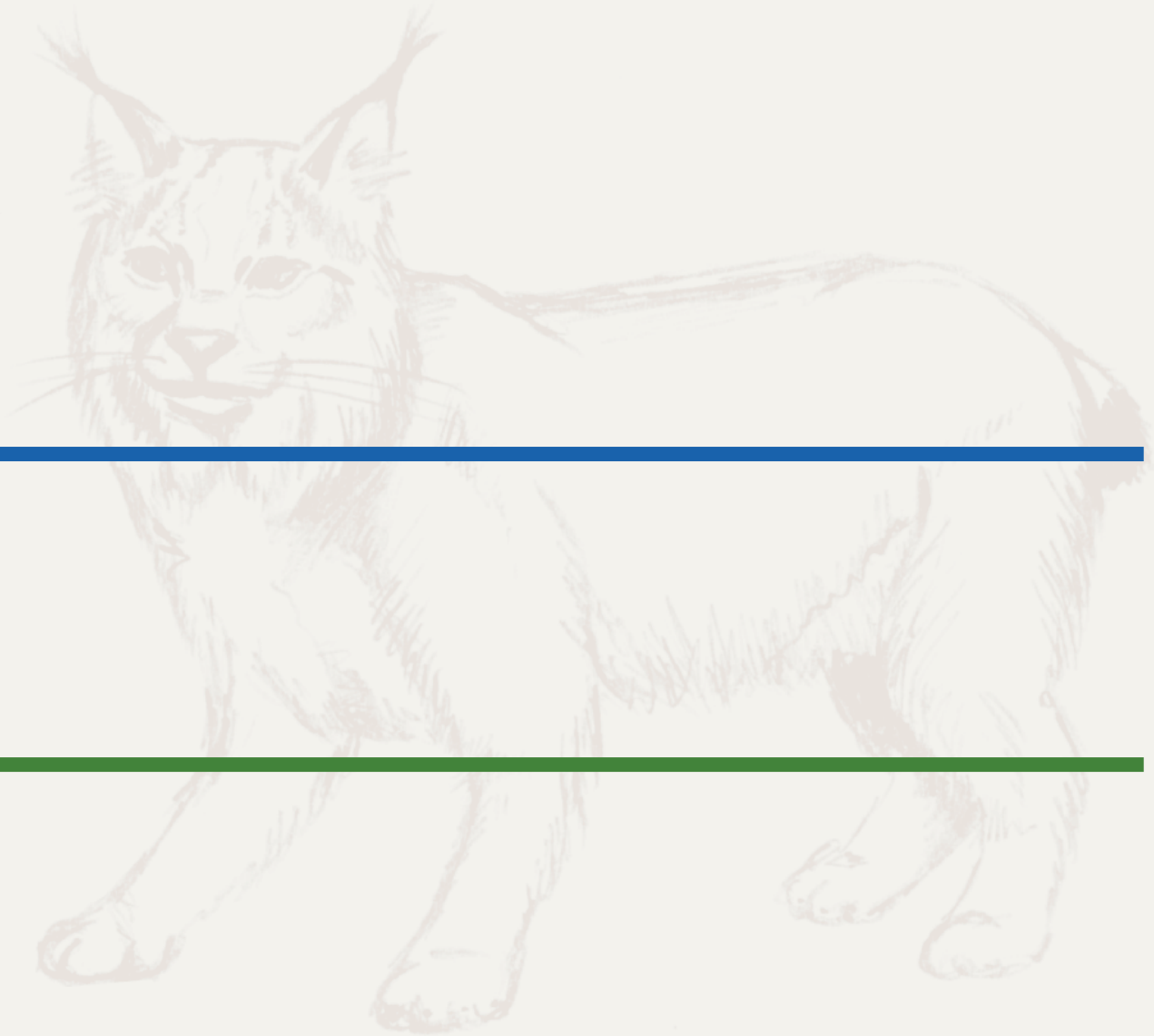


TABLE OF CONTENTS

KILLING TRAPS

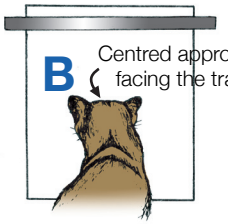
KILLING NECK SNARES

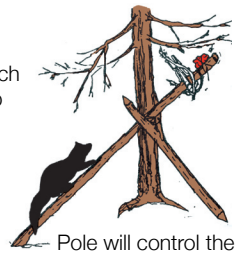
LIVE CAPTURE TRAPS

➡ *Check with the authorities in charge of wildlife to confirm regulations related to trap use in your trapping area*

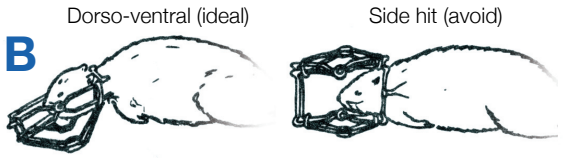
Principles

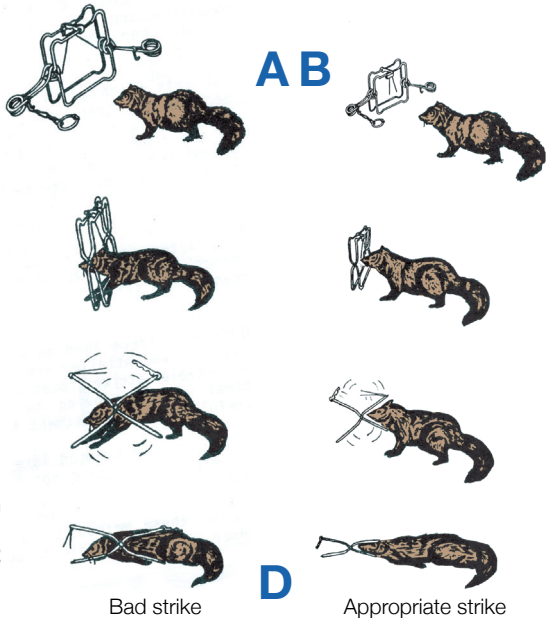
Approach angle



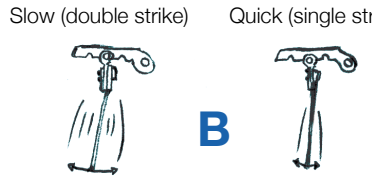


Trap position

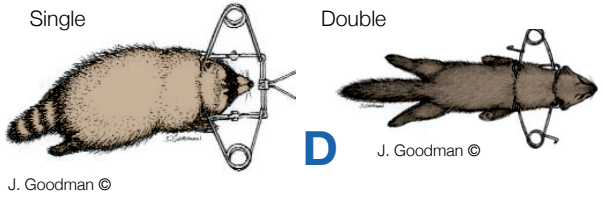




Trigger Adjustment



Strike type



Criteria

- **A** Trap dimensions (adapted to the size of the animal);
- **B** Set (angle of approach by the animal, trap position, trigger position and configuration, trigger adjustment);
- **C** Trap Model Mechanical properties (velocity, momentum and clamping forces);
- **D** Strike locations (targeted vital strike zones).

⇨ Illustrations show rotating jaw traps but can be applied to other killing type traps.

These criteria and principles apply to species-specific killing traps. For a list of certified traps for each species, see:

fur.ca/certified-traps/

mffp.gouv.qc.ca/english/publications/online/wildlife/trapping-regulations/devices/aihts.asp

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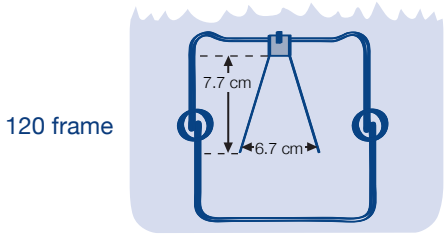
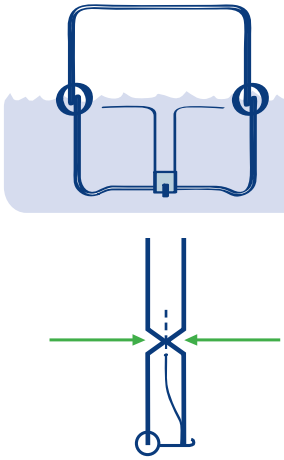
To Get Optimal Lethal Strike Locations

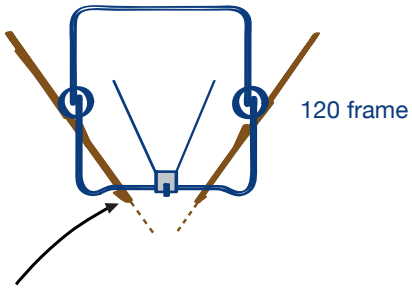
On land and submerged



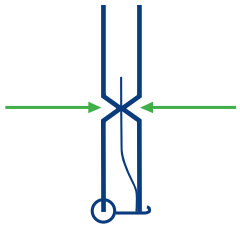
Semi-submerged



Burrow or house entrance

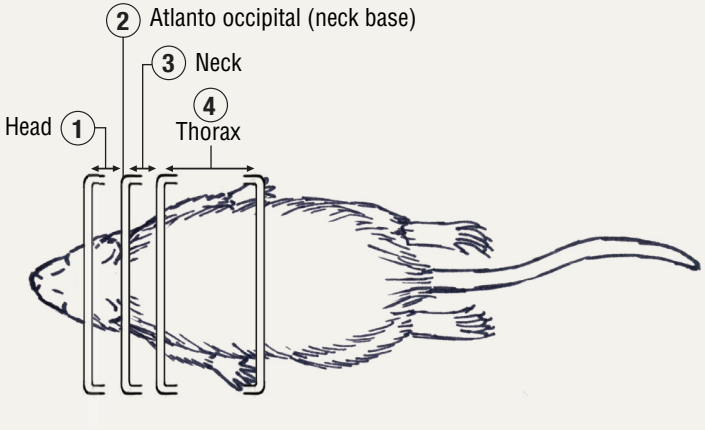


Guiding sticks to reduce the opening thereby allowing rapid contact with the trigger



← = Approach by the animal

Strike Type	Recommended Strike Locations			
	①	②	③	④
Single	✓	✓	✓	✓



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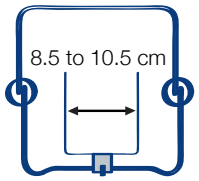
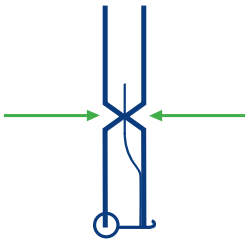
To Get Optimal Lethal Strike Locations

Trail set (on land)
Bait or lure set

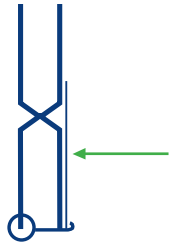
220 and 330 frame



Trail set (on land)

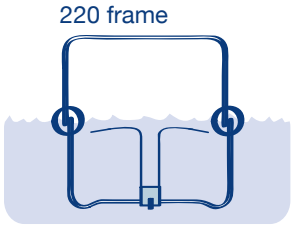


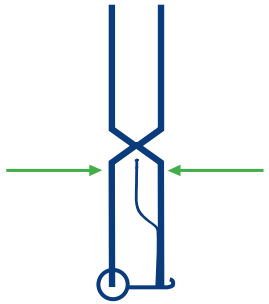
Bait or lure set



Trail set "semi-submerged"

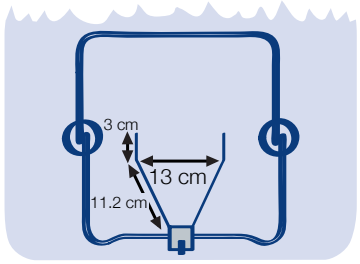
220 frame



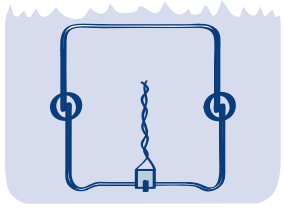


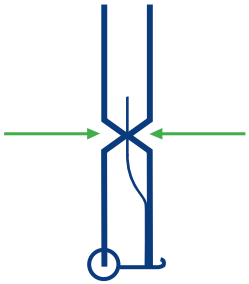
Channel set "submerged"

330 frame



220 and 280 frame

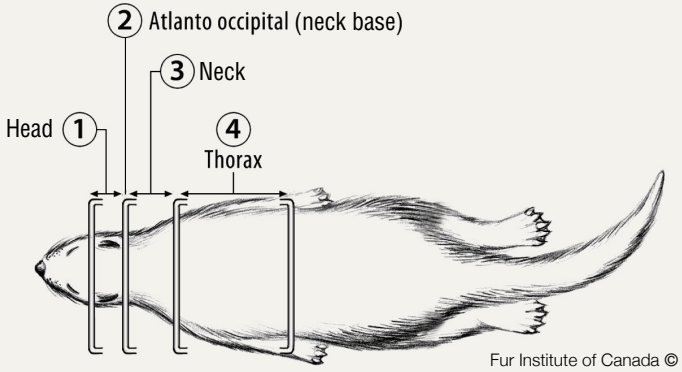




⟵ = Approach by the animal

Strike Types	Recommended Strike Locations			
	①	②	③	④
Single		✓	✓	✓
Double*	✓	✓	✓	✓

* Any combination of thorax ④ and strike location ① or ② or ③.



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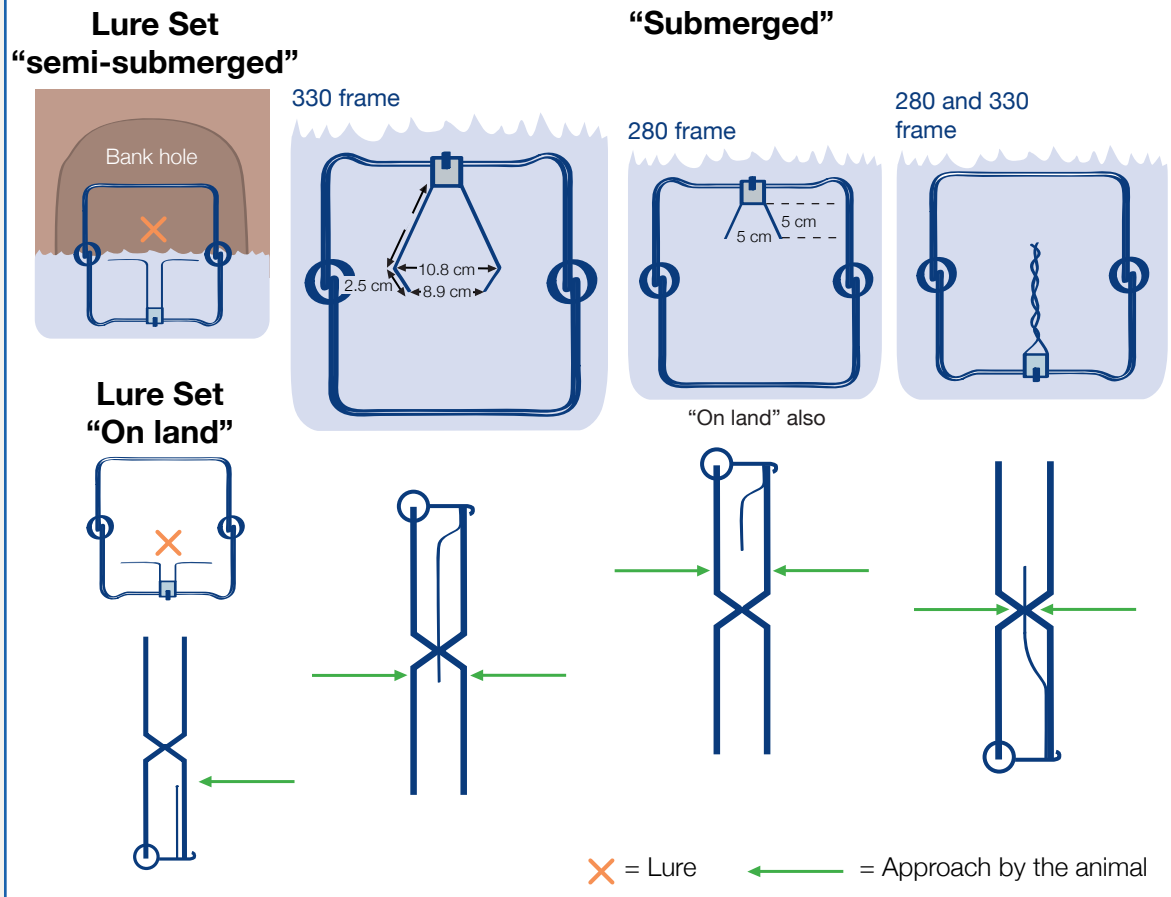
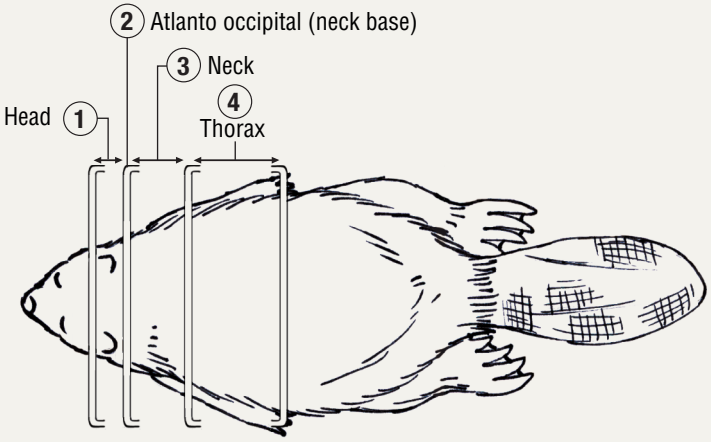
To Get Optimal Lethal Strike Locations



Strike Types	Recommended Strike Locations			
	①	②	③	④
Single	✓	✓	✓	✓
Double*	✓	✓	✓	✓

* Any combination of thorax ④ and strike location ① or ② or ③.



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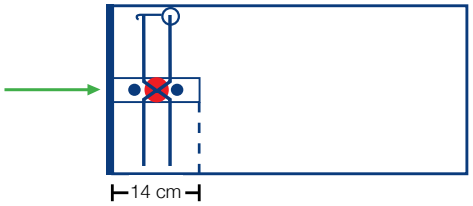
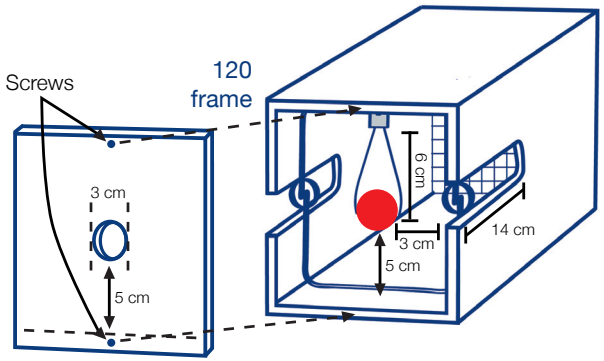
To Get Optimal Lethal Strike Locations

"Closed" Box trap

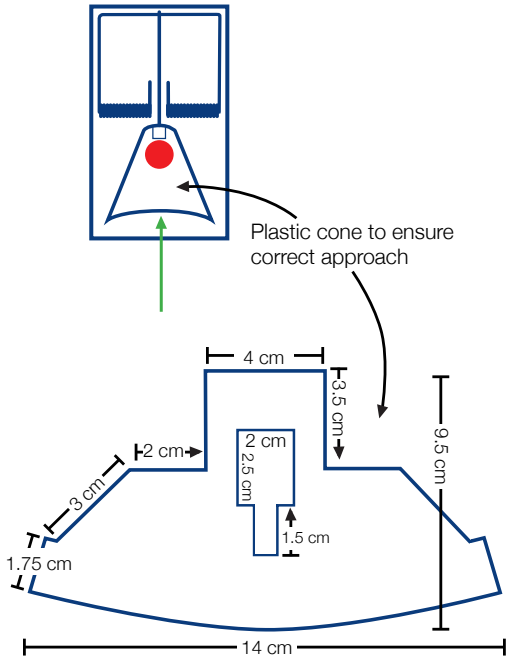
Double rotating jaws / baited trigger



Reduced opening for better selectivity and approach by the animal

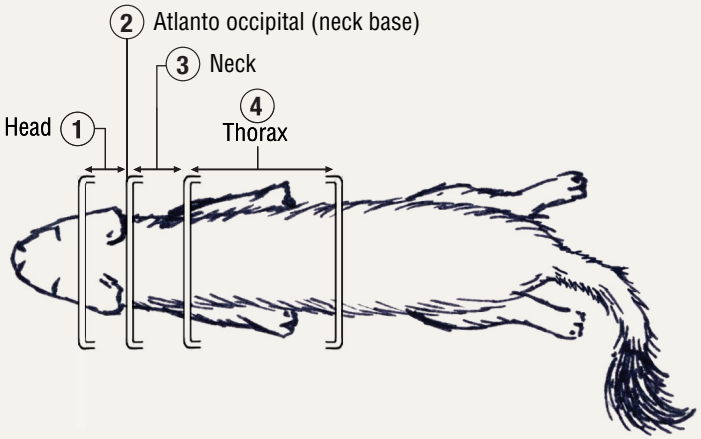


Modified Rat Trap



= Bait = Approach by the animal

Strike Type	Recommended Strike Locations			
	①	②	③	④
Single	✓	✓	✓	✓



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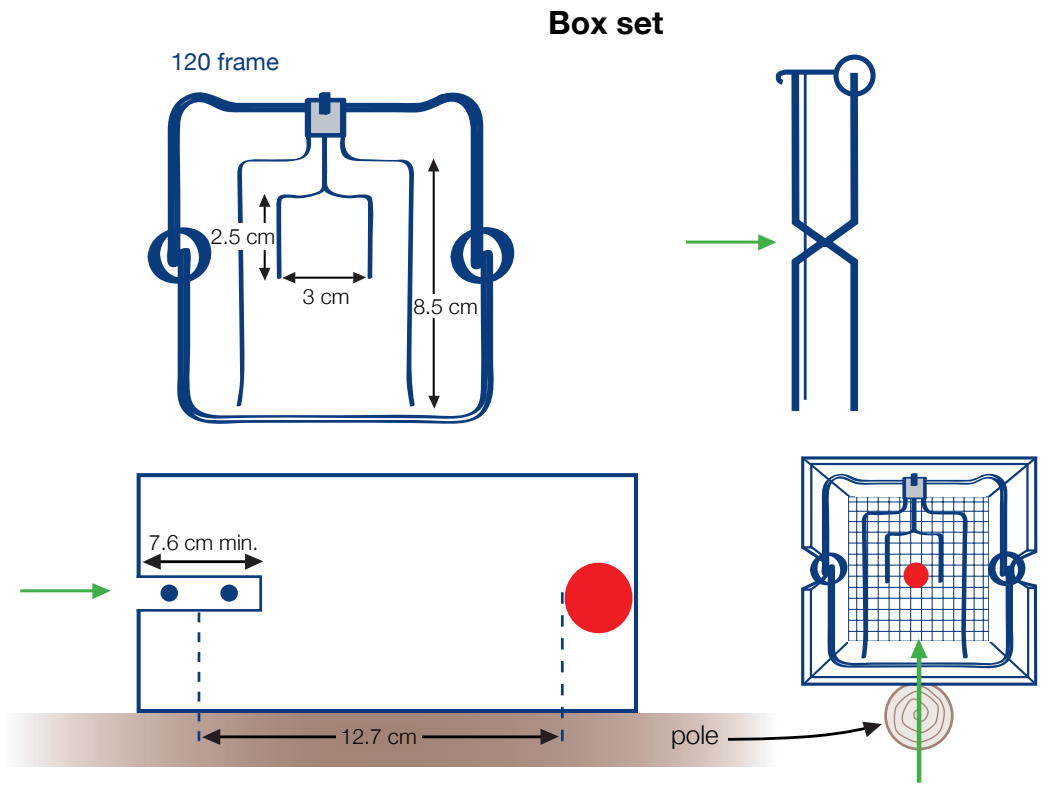
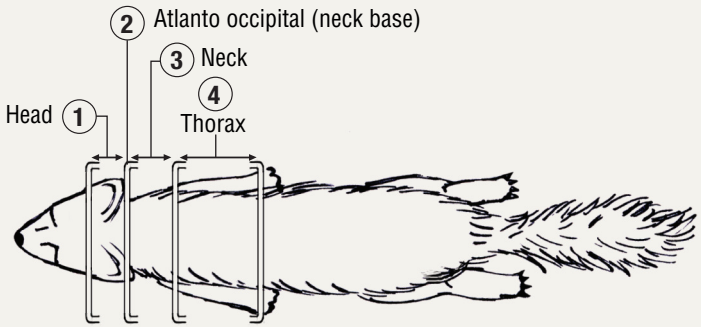
To Get Optimal Lethal Strike Locations



Strike Types	Recommended Strike Locations			
	①	②	③	④
Single	✓	✓	✓	✓
Double*	✓	✓	✓	✓

* Any combination of thorax ④ **and strike location** ① or ② or ③.



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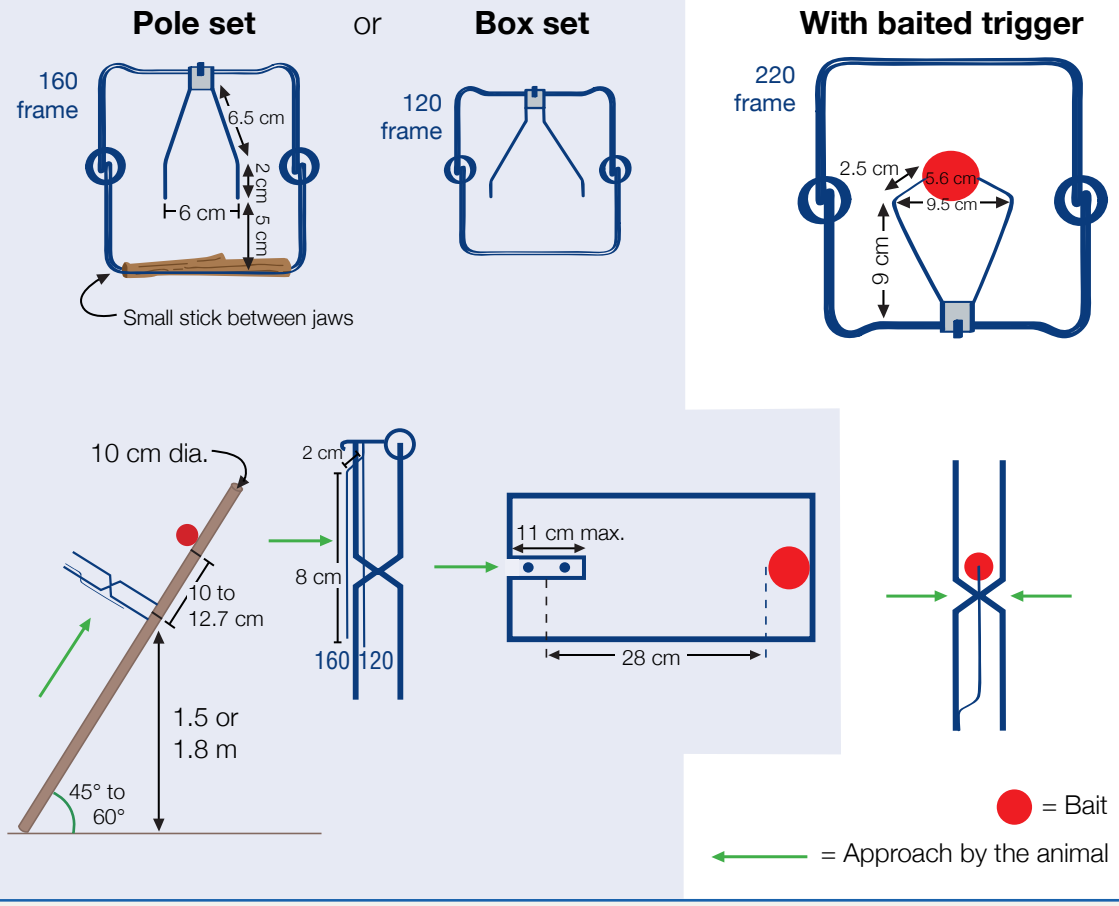
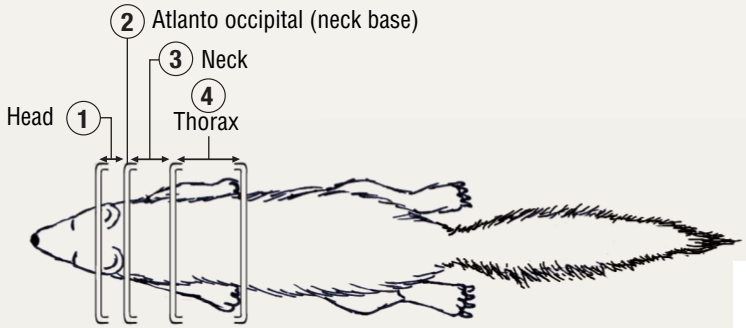
To Get Optimal Lethal Strike Locations



Strike Type	Recommended Strike Location			
	①	②	③	④
Single		✓		



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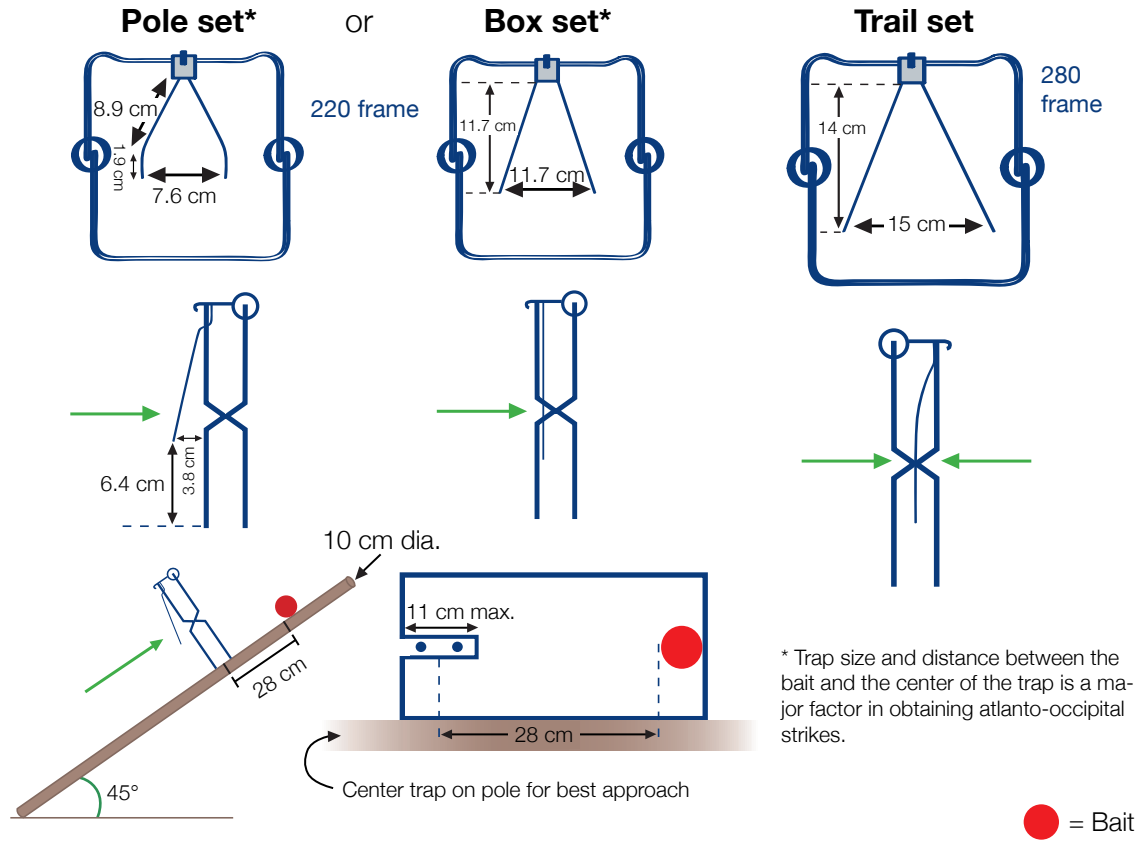
To Get Optimal Lethal Strike Locations



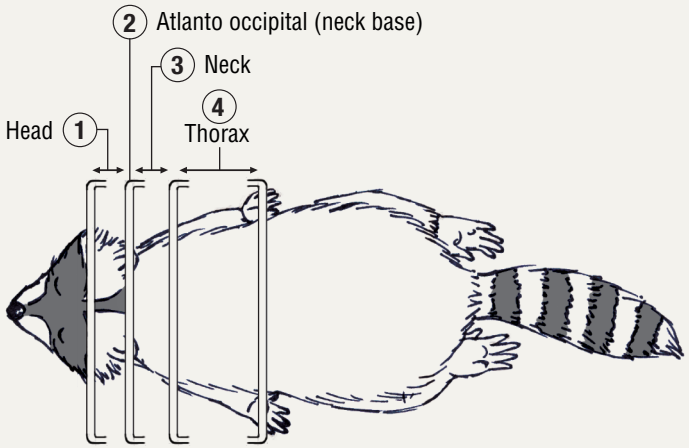
* Trap size and distance between the bait and the center of the trap is a major factor in obtaining atlanto-occipital strikes.

Sets above the ground (vertical or horizontal) is to avoid captures by a front leg

● = Bait

⟵ = Approach by the animal

Strike Type	Recommended Strike Location			
	①	②	③	④
Single		✓		



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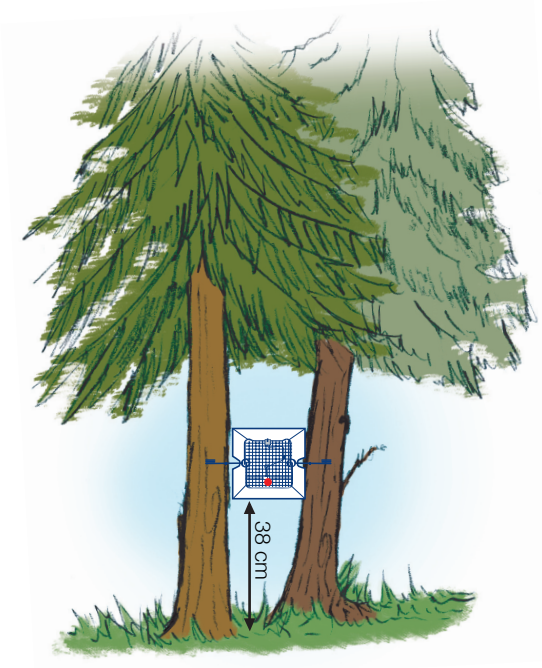
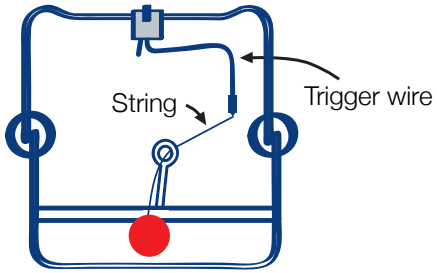
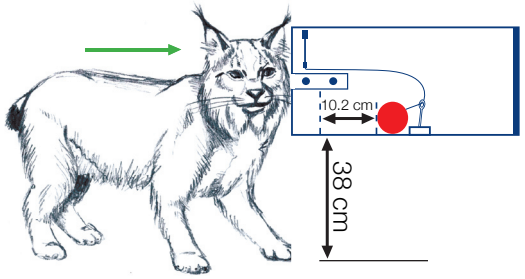
To Get Optimal Lethal Strike Locations

Set details



Pull trigger



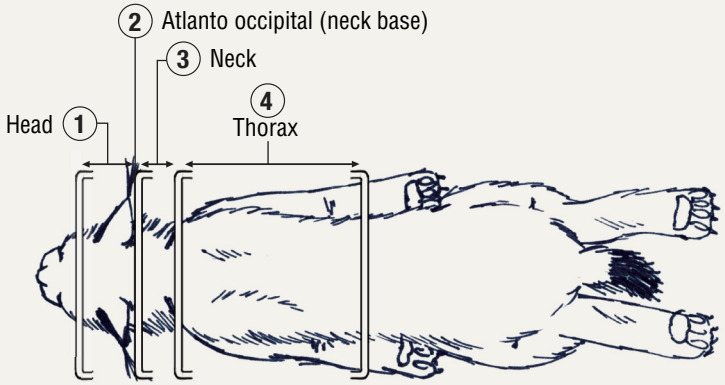


Technique to encourage lynx to take the bait with its mouth thus avoiding capture by a front paw.

● = Bait

← = Approach by the animal

Strike Type	Recommended Strike Location			
	①	②	③	④
Single			✓	



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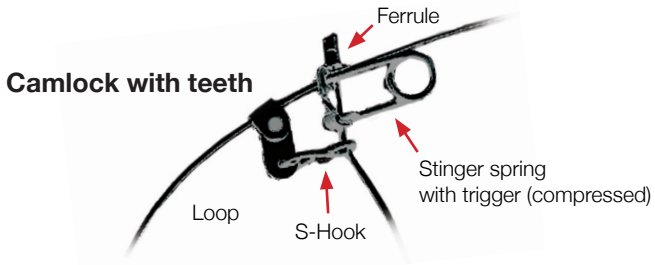
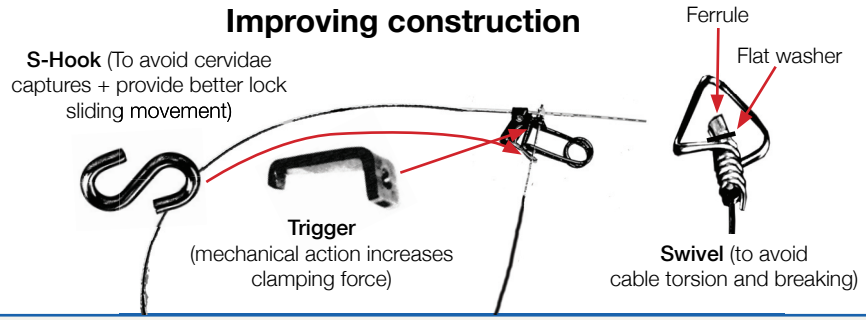
Efficient lock (equipped with a compression spring)



Types of cable (galvanized steel)

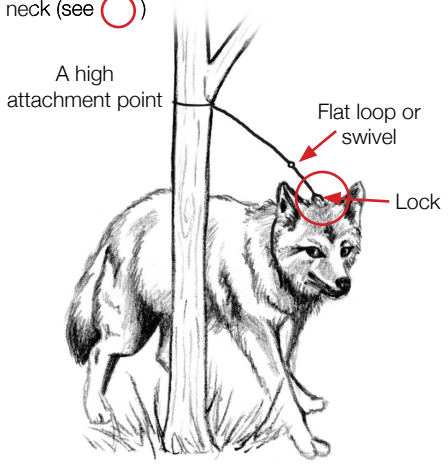
Target species	Diameter (inches)	Construction	Breaking point (lb)	S-Hooks (lb)
+ Lynx/Bobcat Fox/Coyote	1/16 1/16	1 x 19 7 x 7	500 480	350 and less
Coyote/Fox	5/64 5/64	1 x 19 7 x 7	800 650	350 and less
Wolf	3/32 3/32	1 x 19 7 x 7	1 200 920	750

Improving construction

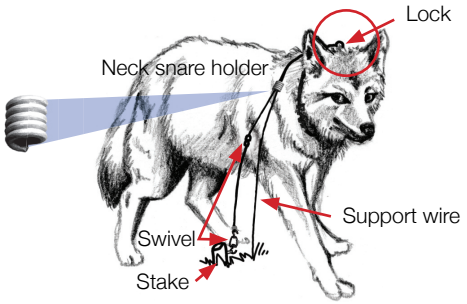


Recommended attachment points

- Always tie off the snare for the largest possible animal you may catch
- To enable the neck snare to close behind the ears and a proper positioning of the lock on the dorsal part of the neck (see ◯)

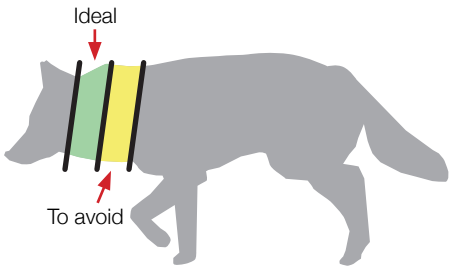


- Use of a collar support to provide a sufficient "temporary" resistance

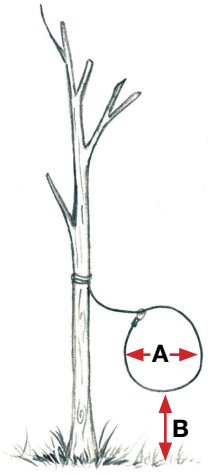


Update: July 1st, 2018

Strike zone (Canid + Feline)

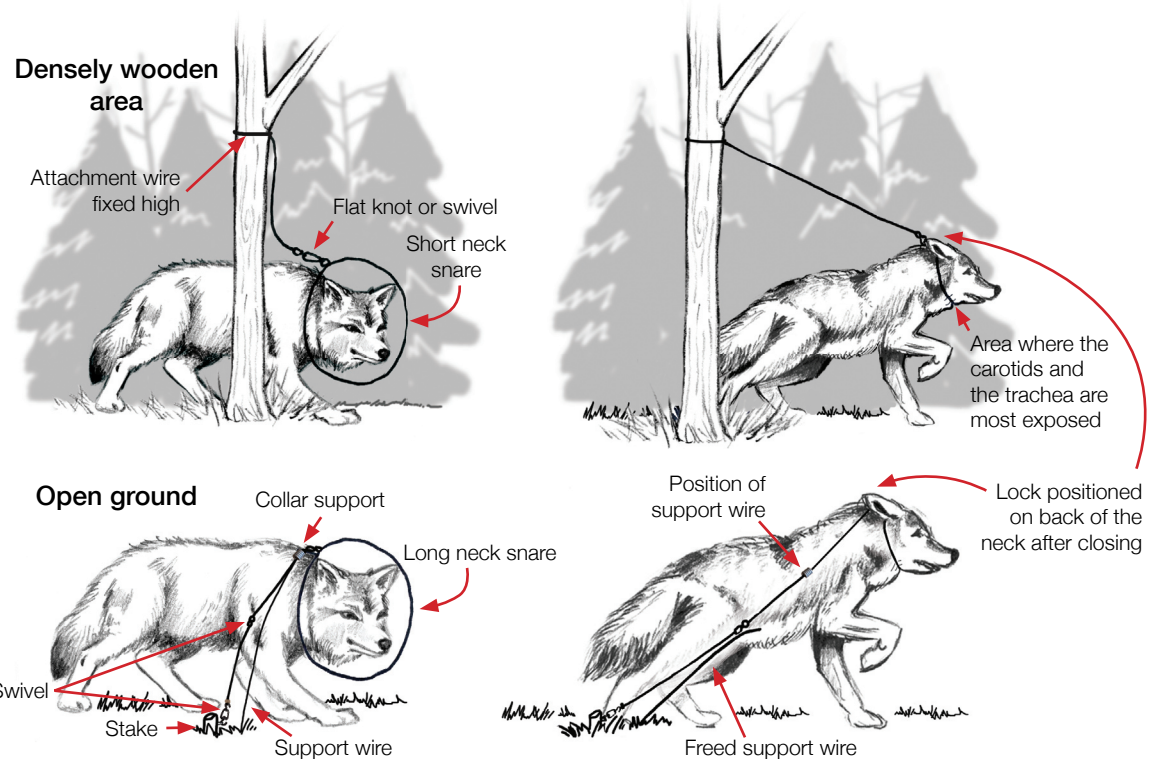


Loop diameters and heights



Species	A	B
Fox	18 cm (7")	18 cm (7")
Bobcat	20.5 cm (8")	20.5 cm (8")
Lynx	20.5 cm (8")	30.5 cm (12")
Coyote	25 cm (10")	25 cm (10")
Wolf	35 cm (14")	35 cm (14")
Wolf (Northern)	40.5 cm (16")	45.5 cm (18")

Snare set sites and attachment points



N.B.: On top of these considerations, in order to ensure a rapid loss of unconsciousness and death, killing neck snares must be properly constructed: efficient locks equipped with compression spring, smallest possible cable wire diameter for the target species. The assembly must produce the best possible mobility (S-Hook) and efficiency of the sliding lock (Senneker trigger, Power snare).

Update: July 1st, 2018

Forêts, Faune et Parcs Québec

Best Trapping Practices

ACCIDENTAL CATCHES (cervidae, cattle, sheep) | **KILLING NECK SNARES**

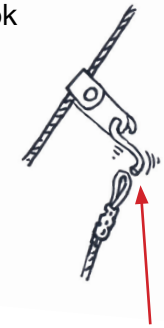
Fur Institute of Canada

➡ *Check with the authorities in charge of wildlife to confirm regulations related to trap use in your trapping area*

To avoid capture and retention of cervidae, cattle and sheep, killing neck snares must be constructed and set the proper way.

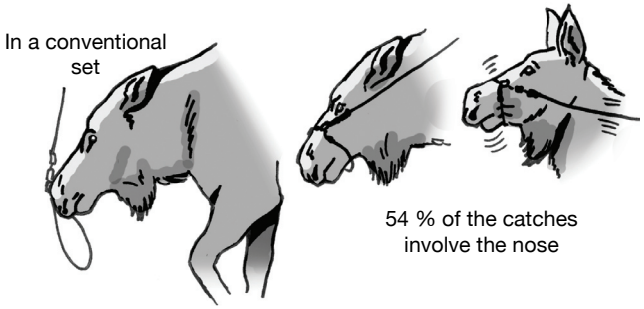
S-Hook

Conventional Camlock with S-Hook

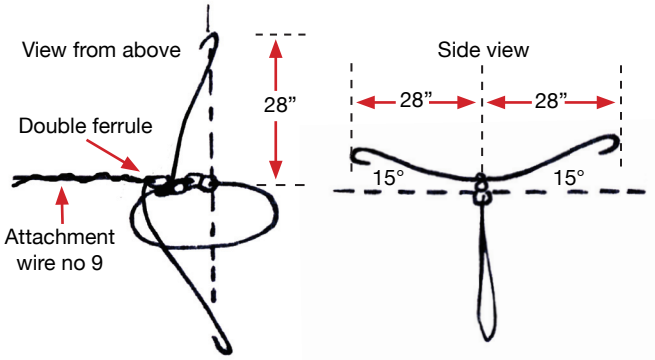


Species	Resistance (lb)
Moose	350-750
Deer	350 and less

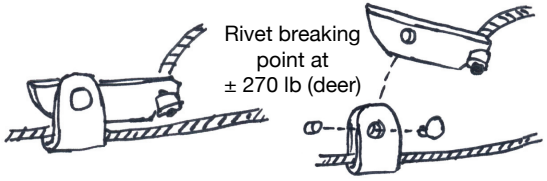
Accidental catches of moose in neck snares intended for wolves (nose catch)



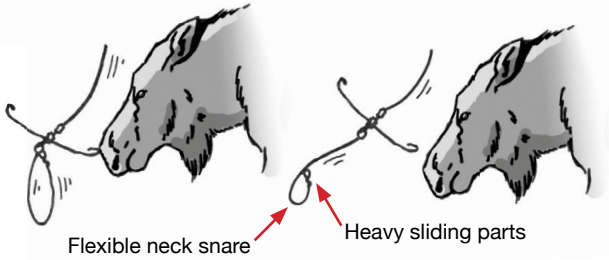
Diverter; wire no 11 (set details)

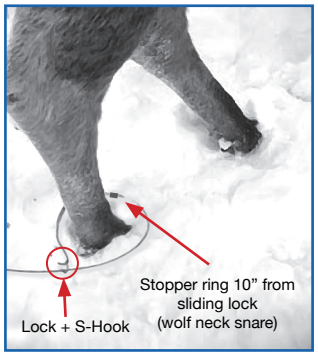


Camlock with breakaway rivet



Using a diverter wire





Leg catch = rupture produced by S-Hook

Update: July 1st, 2018

FTGQ Fédération des Trappeurs Gestionnaires du Québec

Forêts, Faune et Parcs Québec

Best Trapping Practices

ACCIDENTAL CATCHES (eagles + birds of prey) | **KILLING NECK SNARES**

Fur Institute of Canada

➡ *Check with the authorities in charge of wildlife to confirm regulations related to trap use in your trapping area*

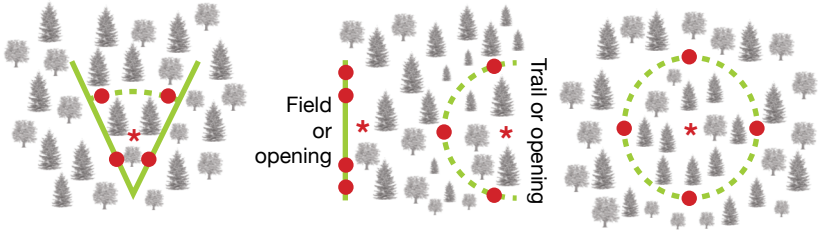
Problems

- Trapping period = critical period for migration
- Solution:

Use of trail sets (no bait)

AND / OR

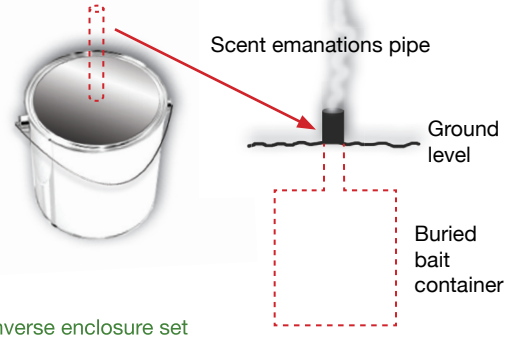
Use of snare sets with scent lure and very small size hidden baits (1 lb/0.5 kg) hidden inside a bait container (plastic tube with holes and lid). Ensure that the bait can't be released from container.



Ex.: Trail crossing | Natural dense vegetation edge | Made-up trail in dense vegetation or woodland

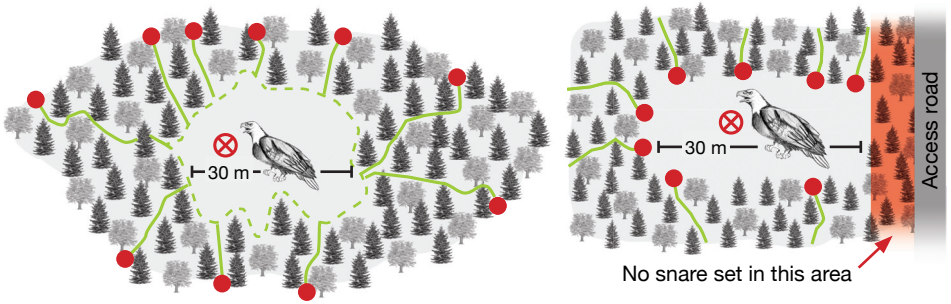
- Canid enclosure set: High risk trapping technique
- Solution:

Solution = Use of a adapted bait container (eg. Steel bucket with lid)



AND

Construction of open or inverse enclosure set



N.B.: the open surface must allow the birds of prey to easily land and take off close to the bait (if exposed to their sight)

LEGEND: * Attractant: (lure) + (small size bait hidden close to the ground in a bait container)
● Position of neck snares ⊗ Buried bait container - - - Hand made trail ——— Existing trail or dense vegetation edge

For more information on proper birds of prey handling and rehabilitation techniques, consult: uqrop.qc.ca/en/
Update: July 1st, 2018

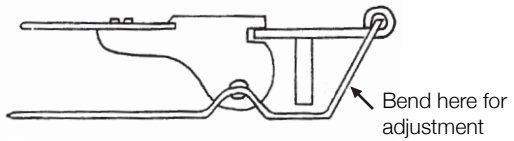
FTGQ Fédération des Trappeurs Gestionnaires du Québec

Elements of Trapping to Avoid Injuries / Limb Holding Traps

Daily check of the trap sets

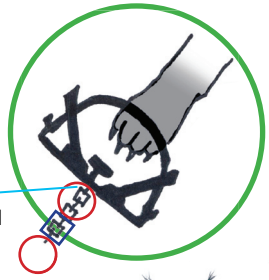
Jaw type traps and certain footsnares

Proper adjustment of the pan trigger...



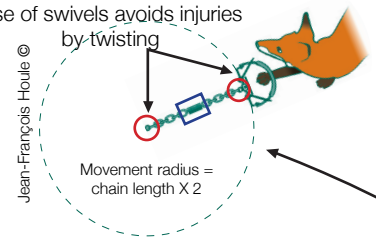
...Produces an appropriate strike location

Jaw type traps + Foot encapsulating

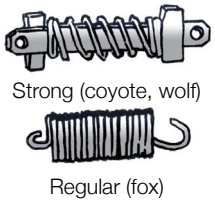


Jaw Type Traps, Footsnares, Foot Encapsulating Traps

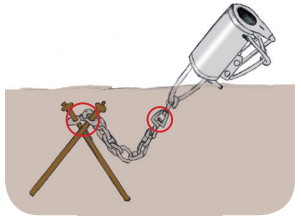
Use of swivels avoids injuries by twisting

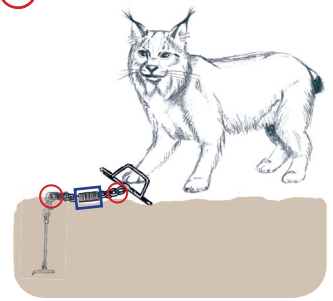


Shock absorber springs



All limb holding traps for raccoon and lynx: use stake anchoring systems





Canids, lynx, raccoon:

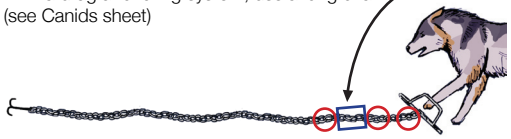
With a stake, use short chain or cable

Canids jaw trap only:

With a drag anchoring system, use a long chain (see Canids sheet)

Stake or drag trap anchoring:

Use an inline shock absorber spring and a sufficient number of swivels



○ = Swivel

□ = Shock absorber spring

These specifications only apply to the species-specific live capture traps. For a list of certified traps for each species, see:

fur.ca/certified-traps/

mffp.gouv.qc.ca/english/publications/online/wildlife/trapping-regulations/devices/aihts.asp

Update: July 1st, 2018

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Forêts, Faune et Parcs Québec

Best Trapping Practices

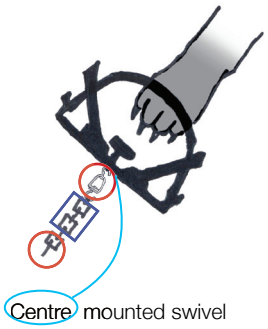
CANIDS (fox, coyote, wolf) | **LIVE CAPTURE**

Fur Institute of Canada

➡ *Check with the authorities in charge of wildlife to confirm regulations related to trap use in your trapping area*

Trap Set Details to Avoid Injuries

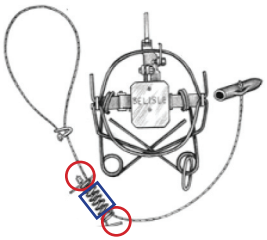
Jaw type trap



Centre mounted swivel

Footsnares

(not set)



(set)

Shock absorber springs

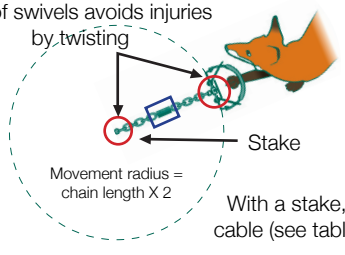
Strong (coyote, wolf)

Regular (fox)

Recommended anchoring chain maximum length		
Mobile (drag)		Stake
Fox	1.5 m	0.3 m
Coyote	2.5 m	0.5 m
Wolf	3 m	1.2 m

Jaw type trap and footsnares

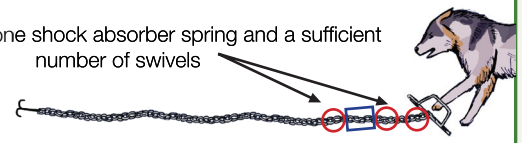
Use of swivels avoids injuries by twisting



Jean-François Houle ©

With a stake, use short chain or cable (see table)

Use of at least one shock absorber spring and a sufficient number of swivels



With a drag anchoring system, use a long chain (see table)

○ = Swivel

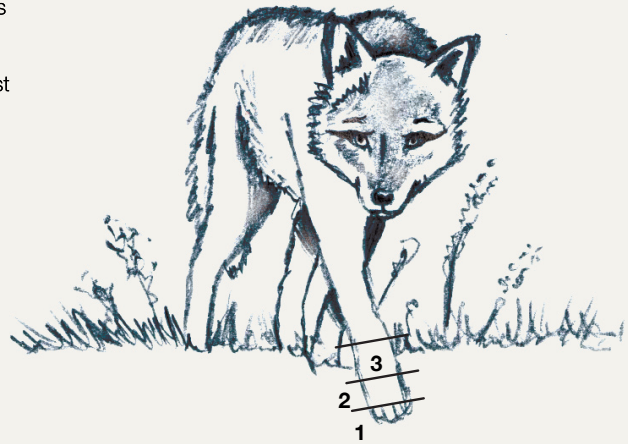
□ = Shock absorber spring

N.B.: For all footsnare cable, use stake only, no drag

FOOTSNARE / JAW TYPE TRAP

Optimal Strike Locations		
1	2	3
✓	✓	

1 Toes
2 Pad
3 Wrist



These specifications only apply to the live capture traps for these species. For a certified trap list for coyote and wolf, see:

fur.ca/certified-traps/

mffp.gouv.qc.ca/english/publications/online/wildlife/trapping-regulations/devices/aihts.asp

For more details, check the PIGEC manual (ftgq.qc.ca/fr/publications/index.htm)
Update: July 1st, 2018

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Forêts, Faune et Parcs Québec

Best Trapping Practices

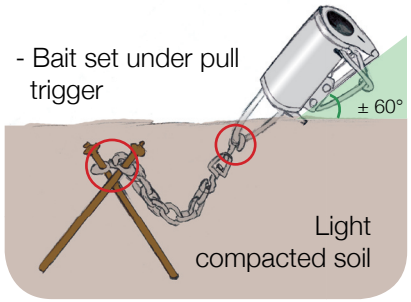
RACCOON | LIVE CAPTURE

Fur Institute of Canada

➡ *Check with the authorities in charge of wildlife to confirm regulations related to trap use in your trapping area*

Trap Set Details To Avoid Injuries

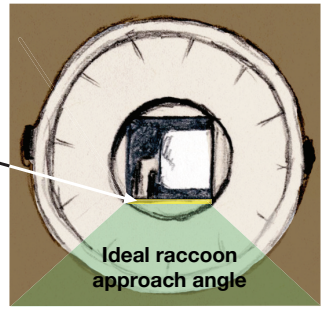
Lil' Grizz Get'rz



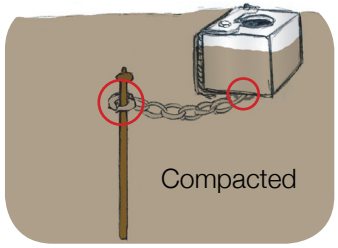
- Bait set under pull trigger

Egg trap

- Positioned this way, the restraining arm (steel rod) strikes on the pad side



Duffer

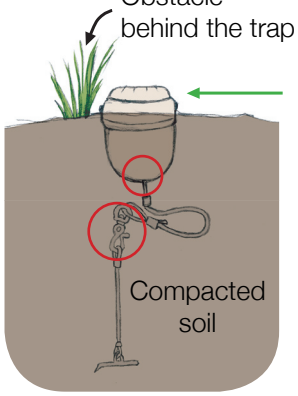


For all trap models:

- Short chaining system
- 2 swivels
- Stake anchoring system

Duffer and Egg trap:

- Partly buried underground (compacted soil)
- Bait set on the trigger



← = Approach by the animal ◯ = Swivel

FOOT ENCAPSULATING TRAPS

Optimal Strike Location		
1	2	3
	✓	

1 Toes
2 Pad
3 Wrist

These specifications only apply to the live capture traps for this species. For a list of certified traps, see:

fur.ca/certified-traps/

mffp.gouv.qc.ca/english/publications/online/wildlife/trapping-regulations/devices/aihts.asp

Update: July 1st, 2018

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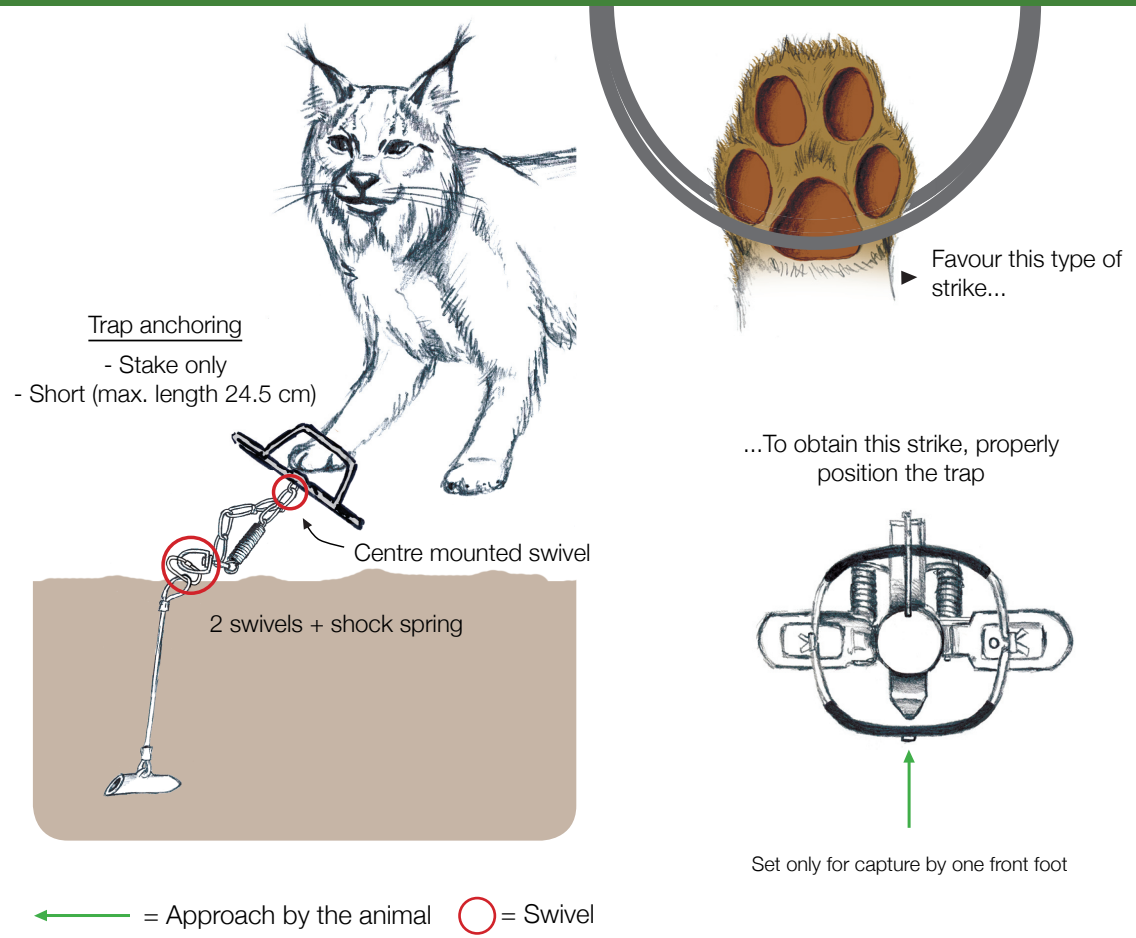
Best Trapping Practices

CANADA LYNX | LIVE CAPTURE

Fur Institute of Canada

➡ *Check with the authorities in charge of wildlife to confirm regulations related to trap use in your trapping area*

Trap Set Details to Avoid Injuries

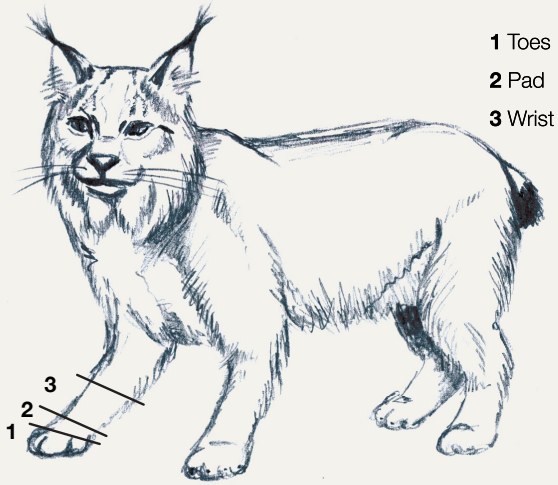


...To obtain this strike, properly position the trap

Set only for capture by one front foot

FOOTSNARE / JAW TYPE TRAP

Optimal Strike Locations		
1	2	3
✓	✓	



These specifications only apply to the live capture traps for this species. For a list of certified traps, see:

fur.ca/certified-traps/

mffp.gouv.qc.ca/english/publications/online/wildlife/trapping-regulations/devices/aihts.asp

Update: July 1st, 2018

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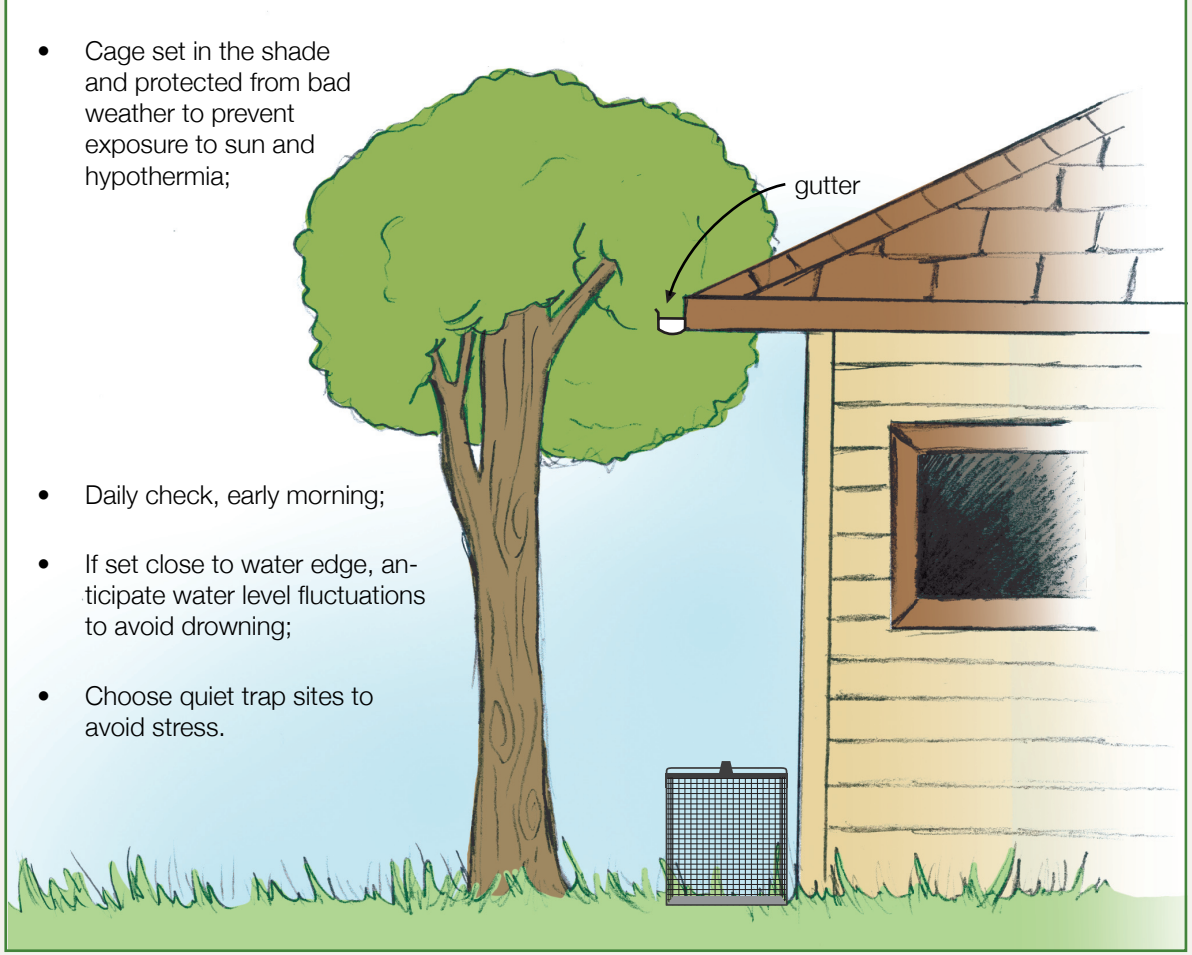
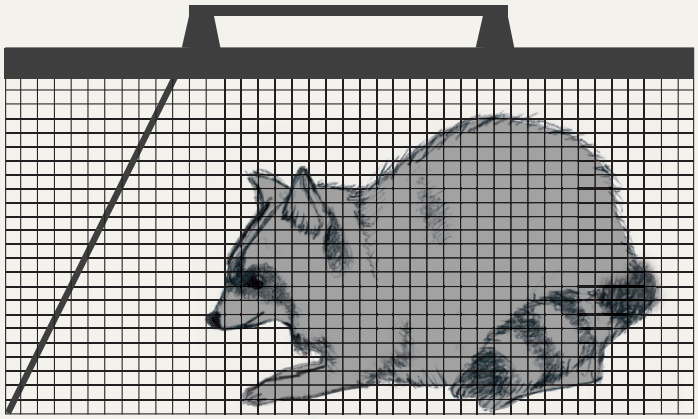
➡ *Check with the authorities in charge of wildlife to confirm regulations related to trap use in your trapping area*

Installation Details

- Cage set in the shade and protected from bad weather to prevent exposure to sun and hypothermia;
- Daily check, early morning;
- If set close to water edge, anticipate water level fluctuations to avoid drowning;
- Choose quiet trap sites to avoid stress.



CAGE



For a list of raccoon certified traps, see:

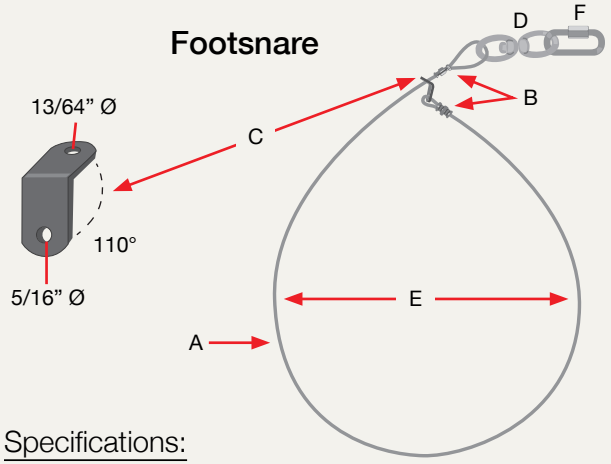
fur.ca/certified-traps/

mffp.gouv.qc.ca/english/publications/online/wildlife/trapping-regulations/devices/aihts.asp

Update: July 1st, 2018

➡ *Check with the authorities in charge of wildlife to confirm regulations related to trap use in your trapping area*

Footsnare



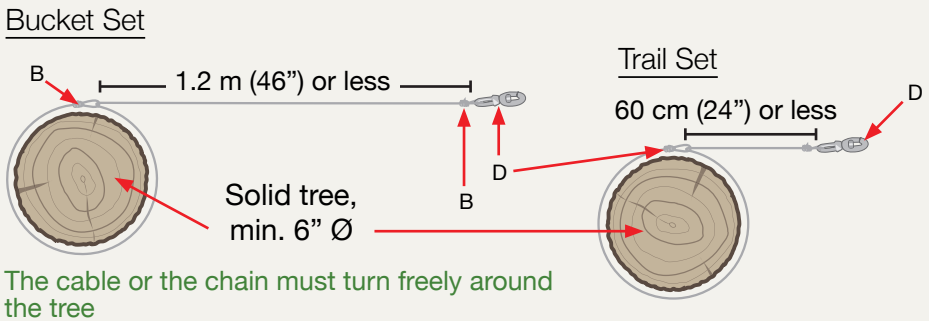
Specifications:

A. Flexible steel cable, construction 7 x 19, 3/16" diameter
B. Double ferrule 3/16"
C. Lock: 110° angle, 3/16" thickness, 5/8" width, rounded edges ***(single use)***
D. Swivel: minimum 880 lb test
E. Diameter of 6" and less (bucket set)
8" and less (trail set)
F. Quick link 5/16 (1 760 lb test)

IMPORTANT: fixed anchor ensures a more reliable operation of the footsnare swivel.

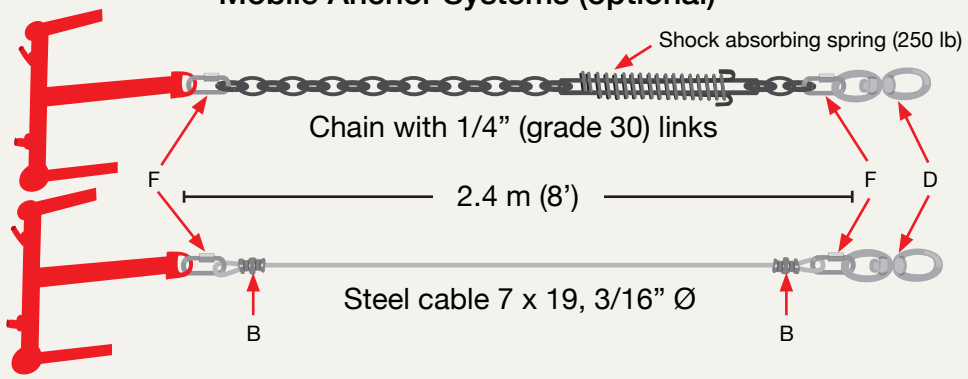
Fixed Anchor Systems (recommended)

with steel cable 3/16" Ø or chain (1/4" links)



The cable or the chain must turn freely around the tree

Mobile Anchor Systems (optional)



Forêts, Faune et Parcs Québec

Best Trapping Practices

BLACK BEAR | **LIVE CAPTURE**

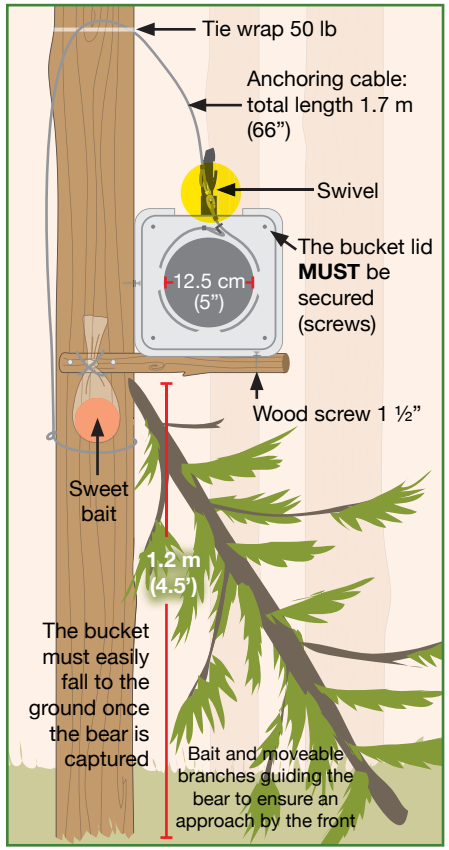
(recommended) **FOOTSNARE / FIXED ANCHOR SYSTEMS**

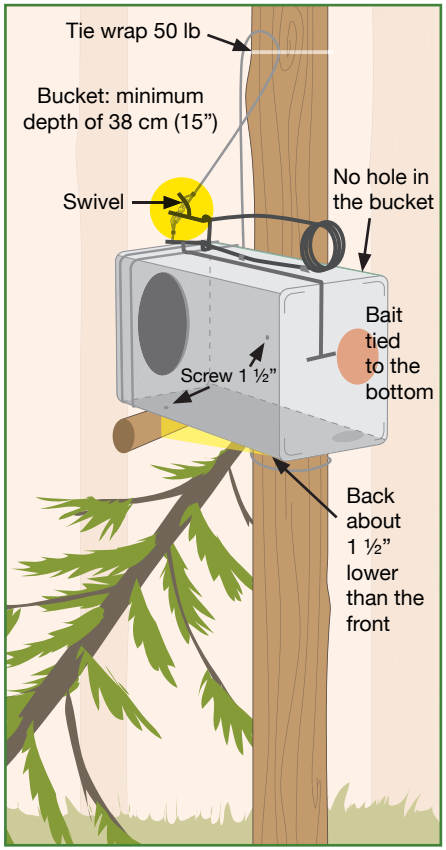
Fur Institute of Canada

➡ *Check with the authorities in charge of wildlife to confirm regulations related to trap use in your trapping area*

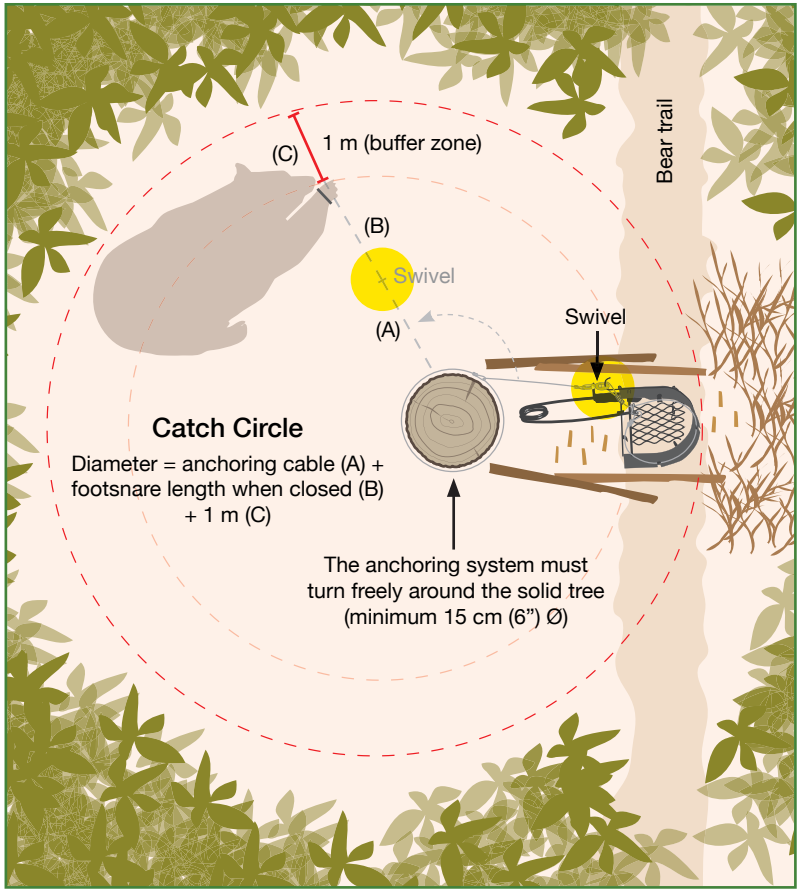
THE SWIVEL MUST ALWAYS BE FUNCTIONAL

BUCKET SET





TRAIL (GROUND) SET



IMPORTANT: the anchoring system is the same for both the bucket and the trail set.

Update: July 1st, 2018

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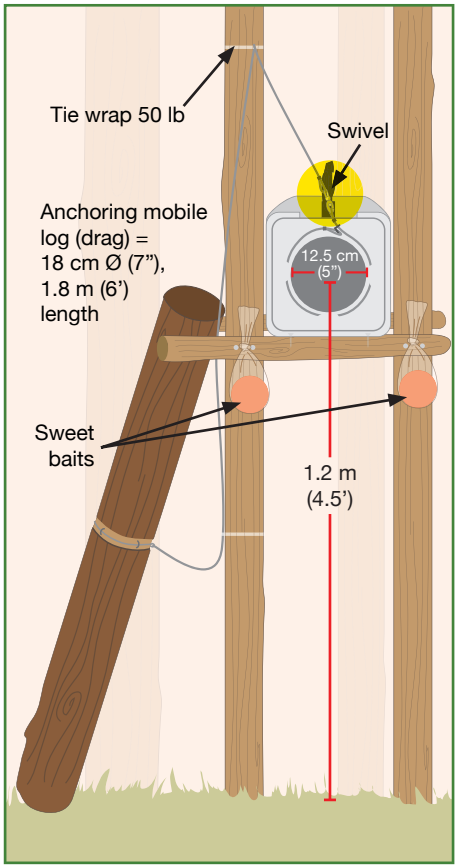
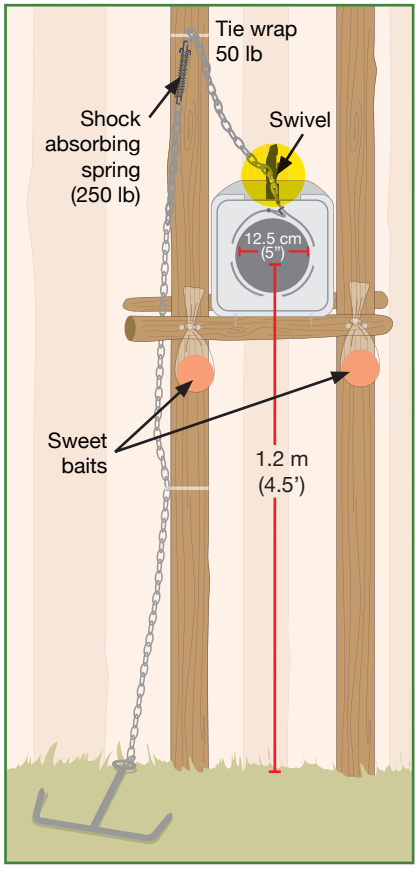
THE SWIVEL MUST ALWAYS BE FUNCTIONAL

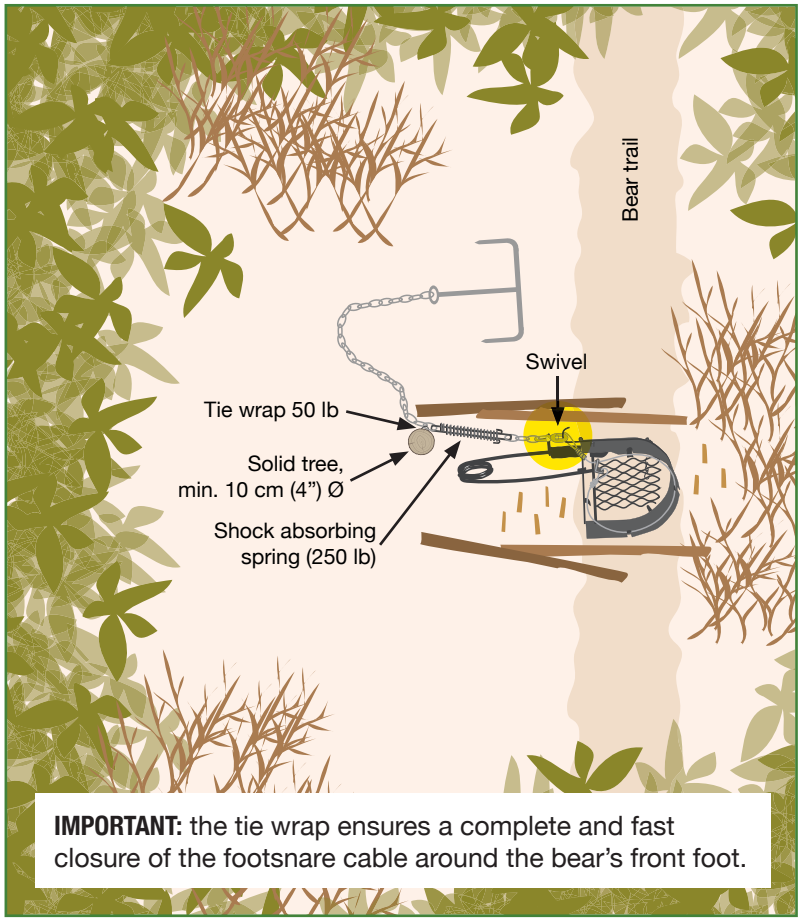
BUCKET SET





IMPORTANT: always guide the bear to approach from the front of the trap.

TRAIL (GROUND) SET



IMPORTANT: the tie wrap ensures a complete and fast closure of the footsnare cable around the bear's front foot.

RECOMMENDED TRAPPING PRACTICES AND CABLE SYSTEM COMPONENTS AND DESIGN

Relaxing cable restraint is a cable used to capture and hold an animal by the neck with the objective of maintaining it alive while minimizing injuries during the contention time period.

It is used in several parts of North America to live capture coyotes for different reasons, mainly where there is a risk of incidental capture of non-target species such as domestic dogs, livestock and big game species.

Properly built and set, it allows for the releasing of non-target animals and, if necessary, of target species with minimal harm.

Ongoing recent trap research programs in Canada and the USA involving government agencies, veterinarians, trappers, trap manufacturers have permitted to identify different characteristics that will permit to achieve these goals for the capture of coyotes. This document is identifying these different components that trap research results have confirmed as to be the basic ones in order to minimize injuries and stress to captured animals.

Since capture efficiency and selectivity are related to local field conditions and wildlife species, and therefore can vary from one region to the other, we recommend that you consult your provincial or state wildlife agencies and trappers association to learn about the best applicable setting techniques in your trapping area.

- **CABLE (AVIATION CABLE)**
  - Strand Construction: single 1 × 19 or 1 × 7, multi 7 × 7 or 7 × 19;
  - Diameter: 1/8” or 3/32”. If too small, it will increase possibility of injuries and chewing by coyote (escape).

- **LOCKS (RELAXING)**
  - Relaxing models, e.g. Micro Lock, Penny (90-Degree Bend Washer Lock), Kaatz Relax-a-Lock, Berkshire Washer Lock, Reichart™ Washer Lock, No. 4 Gregerson™ Lock, BMI™ Slide Free Lock;
  - Passively non-powered activated (by the animal itself);
  - No Powered assisted locks (e.g. Ram Power Snare, Stinger Spring, Amberg Spring).

- **CABLE LOOP (FIGURES 1, 3)**
  - Size (diameter) minimum 10” (25 cm), maximum 12” (30 cm);
  - Height from the ground to the bottom part of the loop: 10” (25 cm);
  - Deer Stop (to prevent capture by a leg): single ferrule cramped on cable to allow a closed loop at 2 ½” (6 cm) diameter.

- **SWIVEL**
  - Install swivel number 1 on the cable as close as possible to the end of the 10 to 12” (25 to 30 cm) diameter snare loop; **(FIGURES 1, 4)**
  - Install swivel number 2 at the end of the cable extension on the fixed anchoring point. Cable extension must be as short as possible; **(FIGURES 1, 4)**
  - Captured animal must be able to circle (360°) freely around the fixed anchoring point. **(FIGURES 4, 5, 6)**

- **EXTENSION TO THE CABLE (FIGURE 2)**

  Must be as short as possible to prevent a whipping action when the coyote in movement hits the full extension of the cable. This reduces the risk of injury and possible cable entanglement resulting in death. **(FIGURE 4)**

- **ANCHORING POINT**

  Snare cable or extension cable has to be attached to a solid (fixed) anchoring point directly by a swivel. The cable MUST be able to freely turn around the anchoring point. **(FIGURES 4, 5, 6)**

  For ground stake, it should be a metal rod of 30” (75 cm). In loose substrate, use a double one. Ground cable anchor (e.g. Berkshire, Finned) and solid tree can also be used as anchors.

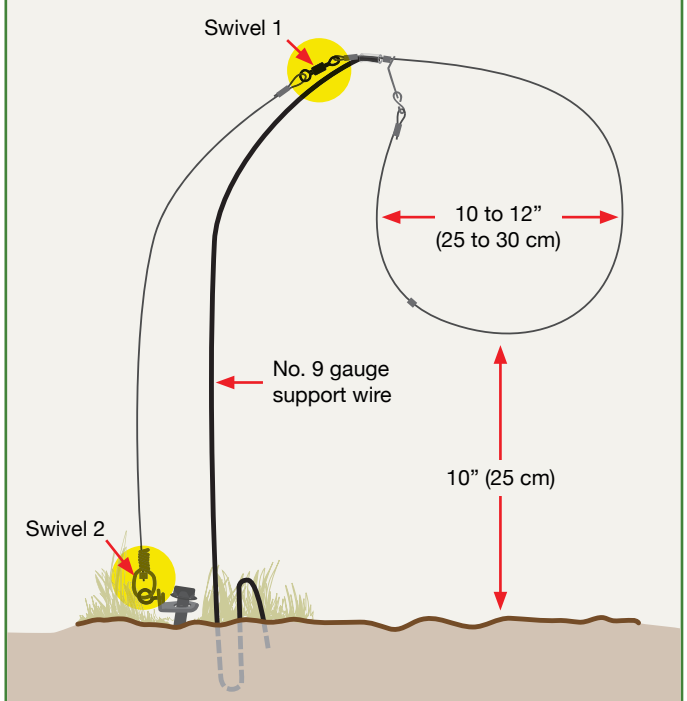
- **ENTANGLEMENT OF THE CABLE**

  There MUST BE NO entanglement of the snare or extension cable. The swivel(s) MUST be able to function freely during the captive time period. **(FIGURE 4)**

- **BREAKAWAY DEVICE (BIG GAME AND LIVESTOCK) (FIGURES 2, 3)**

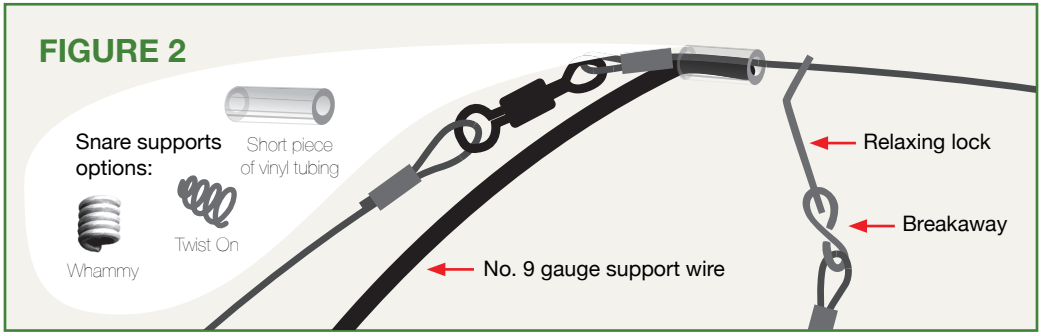
  An appropriate breakaway component is added to allow self releasing of non-target species. Check appropriate resistance per species.

FIGURE 1



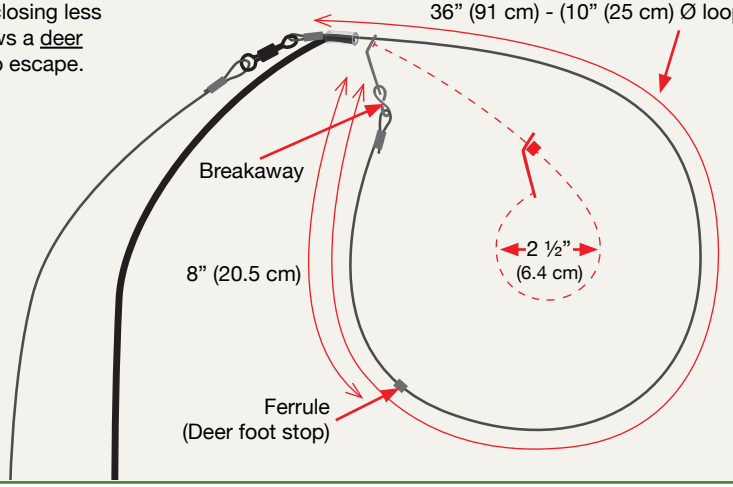
No. 9 gauge support: Bending the wire twice before inserting into the ground gives additional strength and stability to the support. It must fall on the ground once the animal captured.

FIGURE 2



Loop Stops: It is fixed at 8” (20.5 cm) from the lock hole and keeps the loop from closing less than 2 ½ Ø. This allows a deer captured by the leg to escape.

FIGURE 3



➡ *Check with the authorities in charge of wildlife to confirm regulations related to trap use in your trapping area*

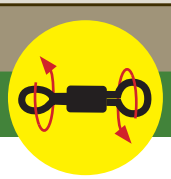
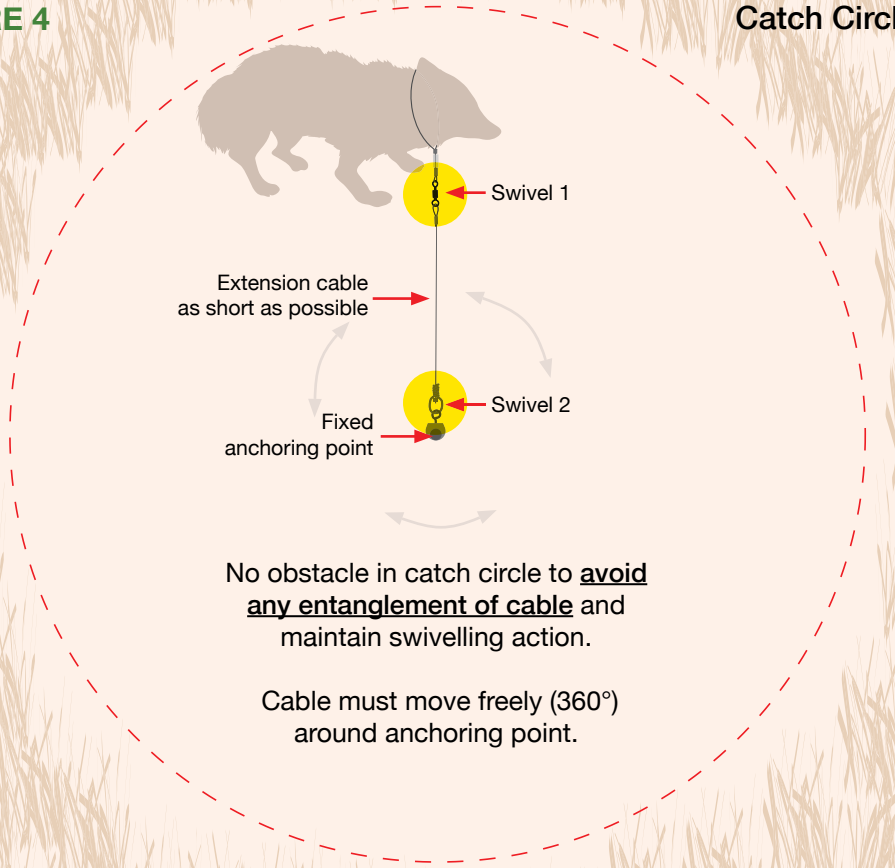
! NO ENTANGLEMENT OF CABLE  SWIVELS MUST ALWAYS BE FUNCTIONAL

FIGURE 4



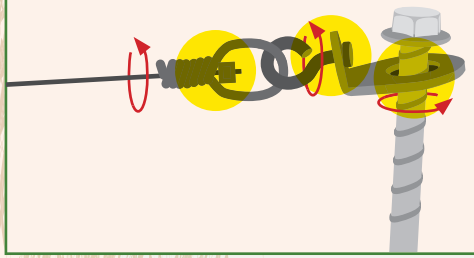
No obstacle in catch circle to **avoid any entanglement of cable** and maintain swivelling action.

Cable must move freely (360°) around anchoring point.

FIXED ANCHORING ONLY

FIGURE 5

Ground Stake



COYOTE RELAXING CABLE RESTRAINT MEETING AIHTS* REQUIREMENTS
DESCRIPTION OF COMPONENTS

KAATZ RELAX-A-LOCK, BERKSHIRE LOCK, 90-DEGREE BEND WASHER LOCK (PENNY LOCK) AND MICRO LOCK

Kaatz Relax-a-Lock

Berkshire Washer Lock

90-Degree Bend Washer Lock (Penny Lock)

Micro Lock

SNARE + SET CHARACTERISTICS

- 3/32” diameter 7 x 7 or 1 x 19 weave cable (both loop and extension).
- Devices of a total of 6’ (1.83 m) in length composed of two parts: a 38” (96.5 cm) catch loop cable and a 34” (86.5 cm) extension cable.
- A first No. 8 barrel swivel placed between the loop and extension cables, 38” (96.5 cm) from the cable loop end (to create a maximum catch loop diameter of 12” (30 cm)).
- A second No. 9 wire end swivel attached for staking.
- A ferrule stop placed 8” (20.5 cm) from the cable end loop to create a 2.5” (6.4 cm) diameter loop stop (deer stop).
- A breakaway ferrule clamped on the cable end (behind the lock) and designed to break at 350 lb.
- Vinyl tubing as the snare support collar.
- Bottom of cable loop set between 9-12” (23-30 cm) from the ground or packed snow.

*Agreement on International Humane Trapping Standards

Source: Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, USA

PUBLISHED BY THE

Fédération des Trappeurs Gestionnaires du Québec
July 2018 (3rd edition)

LEGAL DEPOSIT

Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec 2018
ISBN: 978-2-924030-25-7 (PDF)