



Tomahawk Live Trap^{llc}

Humane Trapping Guidelines

While designed for humanely capturing animals, even cage traps can cause injury or death if not used properly. Here are a few tips to guide you in proper use:

- ✓ **Know your trap:** Before setting the trap, be sure you know how to open it. Practice until you can open and set it with ease.
- ✓ **Know your options:** Before setting the trap, always have a plan for humane and legal disposition (local shelter, DVM, wildlife rehabilitator) in case the animal is sick or injured. If you catch an unintended animal, be ready to safely release it. If you've caught a nursing animal (you can check for enlarged teats through the bottom of the trap) release the animal immediately to return to her young so they don't starve.
- ✓ **Know the law:** Always familiarize yourself with your local and state laws before setting a trap. Each state, and in some cases each city, has regulations regarding the moving and releasing of live animals. Also remember that some animals may be considered personal property and must be turned in to local authorities.
- ✓ **Check traps frequently:** If possible, check every two hours during the day. At minimum, always check early in the morning and last thing in the evening.
- ✓ **Prevent injury:** Do not put cans or any sharp or metal objects inside the trap, as they can cause tooth and paw damage. Consider putting a safe "worry toy" inside the trap. This could be a chew toy, bone, plastic water bottle or anything moveable that will keep the animal busy so he won't be tempted to chew on the metal/wire trap.
- ✓ **Minimize stress:** Once an animal is captured, temporarily cover the trap with a trap cover, light sheet or towel to minimize stress caused by confinement. Avoid exposing the trapped animal to people or other animals.
- ✓ **Know the season:** Is it the time of year they are likely to have young? When an animal is denning in or around your home, particularly in spring and summer, it's usually a mother with babies. The unintended result of trapping is that you separate a nursing mother from her litter. Birthing and baby rearing seasons can be long and varied. Always check with your local wildlife rehabilitator, cooperative extension service, or nature center for advice on when birthing and baby rearing seasons are in your area.
- ✓ **Avoid weather extremes:** Do not set the trap outdoors in weather extremes (above 80° F or below 35° F as hyperthermia or hypothermia can be deadly), in heavy storms or in direct sunlight.
- ✓ **Avoid dangerous areas:** Don't set traps in areas of potential flooding or on heat sinks like asphalt roads, tar, or shingle and metal roofs during warm weather.
- ✓ **Have a problem-solving plan:** Remember, catching the animal should only be one part of your plan. To prevent problems from recurring once you've removed the animal, you must always remove what is *attracting* the animal or different animals will be drawn to the area and the problem will recur. For animals seeking a cozy den, you must exclude the animal from buildings by doing the necessary repair work (i.e. addressing uncapped chimneys, unscreened attic vents, entry points in the foundation, etc.). For animals enjoying a free "buffet", you must remove the food source (i.e. pet food, fallen fruit, unsecured garbage, etc.) that is attracting them.