

HOW TO MAKE ANIMAL TRAPS

Holding Traps

Use a holding trap (or snare) to trap small ground animals. Holding traps capture animals but do not kill them.

- 1 Procure a two-foot-long wire and a small stick.**
Wire is essential—animals can bite through string and twine.
- 2 Wrap one end of the wire around the stick.**
Twist the stick while holding the wire on both sides of the stick with your thumb and forefinger. You will create a small loop around the stick while wrapping the wire around itself.
- 3 Remove the stick by breaking it near the wire.**
Slide the ends out. You will be left with a small loop at one end of the wire.
- 4 Take the other end of the wire and pass it through the loop.**
This will make a snare loop, which becomes a snare that will tighten as the animal struggles. The snare loop should be about five inches in diameter.

- 5 Twist and tie the end of the wire to a one-foot stake.**

- 6 Place the snare in an animal track or at the entrance to an animal burrow or hole.**

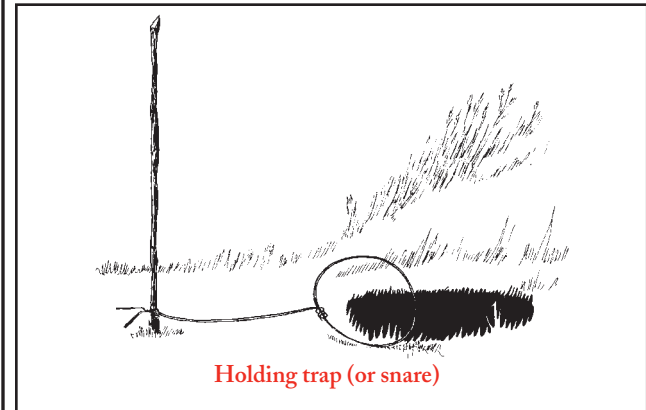
You can also use two snares, one behind the other, to increase your odds of catching something. The struggling animal caught in one snare will likely become caught in the other.

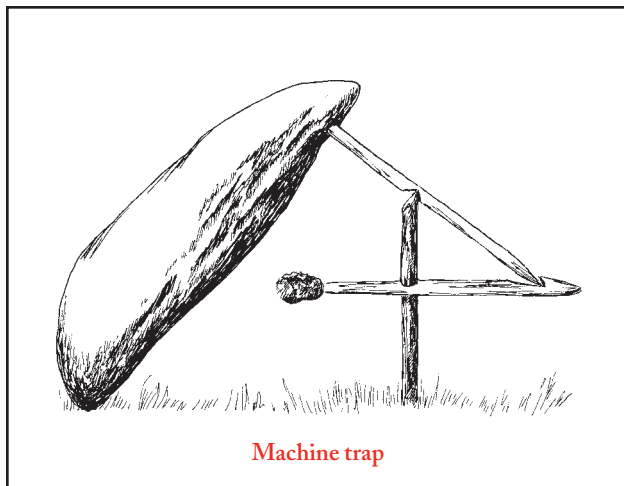
- 7 Anchor the stake in the ground.**

Position the stake in an area where the animal won't see it. Mark it so that you can find it later.

- 8 Check the trap only once or twice daily.**

Checking the trap too often may frighten away the animals. When an animal heading for its home becomes caught in the snare, it will struggle to get away, which will tighten the wire trap.





MACHINE TRAPS

Machine traps use gravity, activated by a trigger, to trap or kill animals. The easiest machine trap to build is a deadfall, where a trigger releases a rock or heavy piece of wood to trap or kill an animal.

- 1** Look for a well-worn animal path on which to place the trap.
- 2** Find three straight sticks or pieces of wood that are approximately the same length and diameter, and a large, heavy stone or log.

The length and thickness of the sticks you need will depend upon the weight of the stone or log you intend to prop up—use your judgment.

- 3** **Cut a squared notch in the middle of one stick.**
Cut the point of the stick to look like the tip of a flat-head screwdriver—thin and flat. This is your upright support bar.
- 4** **Cut a squared notch (to fit into the first squared notch like Lincoln Logs) in the middle of another stick.**
On this stick, cut a triangular notch a couple of inches from one end, and whittle the other end of the stick to a point. This is your bait bar.
- 5** **Cut a triangular notch into the middle of the last stick.**
This notch should fit on the top of your support stick. Cut one point of this stick to look like the tip of a flat-head screwdriver (to fit into the triangular notch of your bait bar), and cut the other end flat. This is your locking bar.
- 6** **Anchor your support stick in the ground, perpendicular to the ground.**
- 7** **Attach a piece of meat or food to the end of your bait bar, and insert the bait bar into the notch of your support stick, parallel to the ground.**
- 8** **Place your locking bar on top of your bait and support bar, forming a 45-degree angle with your bait bar.**
The screwdriver tip of your locking bar should fit into the notch at the end of your bait bar, and the tip of the support bar should fit into the triangular notch of your locking bar.

9 Lean the stone or log so that the top end rests on the top of your locking bar.

When an animal comes along the trail, it will take the bait, causing the locking bar to dislodge and trigger the deadfall, trapping or crushing your prey.

Be Aware

- To increase the odds of trapping an animal, always set multiple traps, preferably 8 to 10.
- Set the traps where animals live or in areas they frequent, near water and feeding areas. Watch animal patterns to see where they come and go regularly. Dung piles indicate nesting areas.
- Check traps once or twice daily. Dead animals will quickly rot or become food for other animals.
- Do not build the trap where you intend to place it. Build the trap components in camp, then bring them to the place you have chosen. This way, you will not frighten away animals by spending too much time in their habitats. Try to de-scent your traps using leaves or bark to remove your smell.
- Set traps in the narrow parts of animal trails, such as between rocks or in areas with thick brush on either side. Animals will generally only approach traps if there is no easy way around them. Like humans, animals tend to take the path of least resistance.
- Be careful around traps. Animal traps can injure you, and can trap bigger animals than you expect.
- Be alert when approaching any trapped animal. It may not be dead, and it may attack you.
- Do not leave traps or trap elements behind when you leave an area.

**WORST-CASE
SCENARIO.**