

# Best Trapping Practices

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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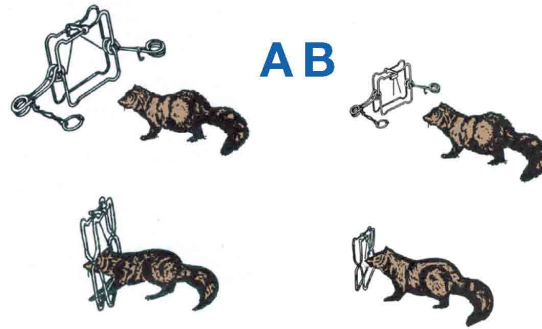
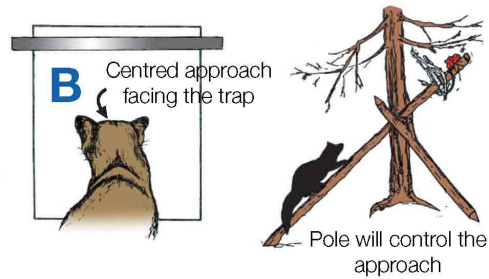
**March 2012**

**Update April 2014**

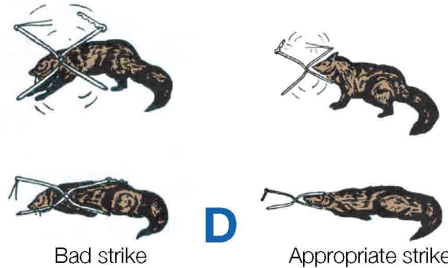
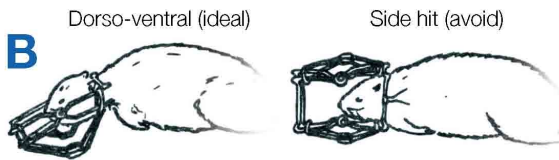


Principles | Criteria

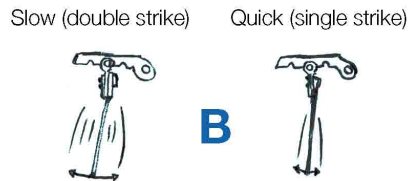
Approach angle



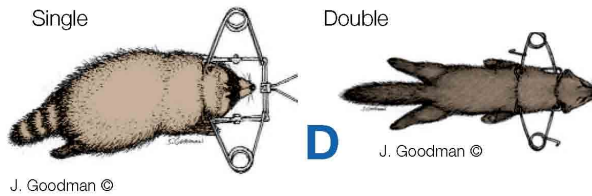
Trap position



Trigger Adjustment



Strike type



- 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 :

[http://www.fur.ca/TRS\\_certified\\_traps.php](http://www.fur.ca/TRS_certified_traps.php)

<http://www.mrnf.gouv.qc.ca/publications/enligne/faune/reglementation-piegeage/engins/anipsc.asp>

### To Get Optimal Lethal Strike Locations

**On land and submerged**

120 frame

7.7 cm  
4.67 cm

**Semi-submerged**

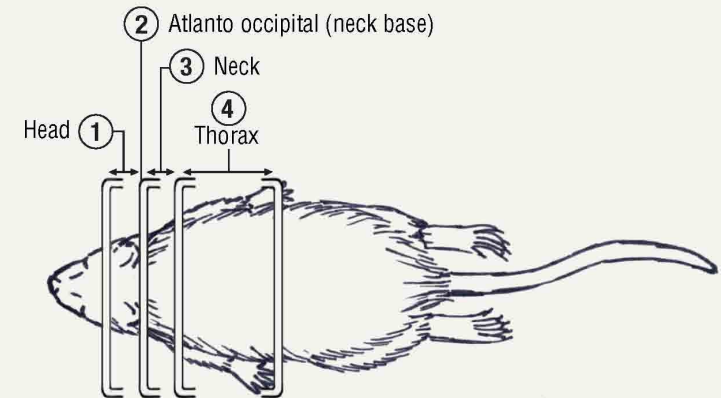
**Burrow or house entrance**

120 frame

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

← = Approach by the animal

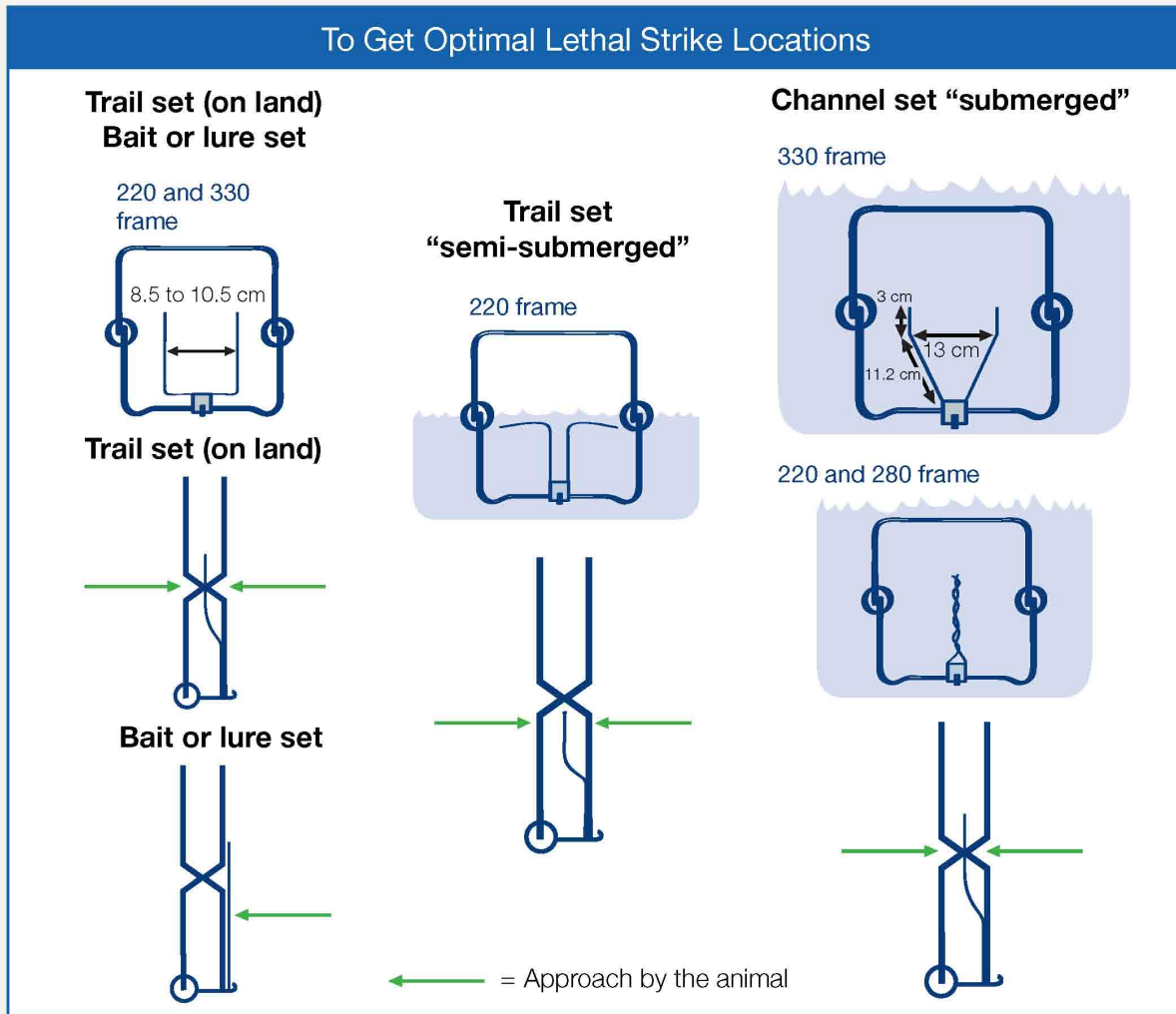
Strike Type	Recommended Strike Locations			
	①	②	③	④
Single	✓	✓	✓	✓



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

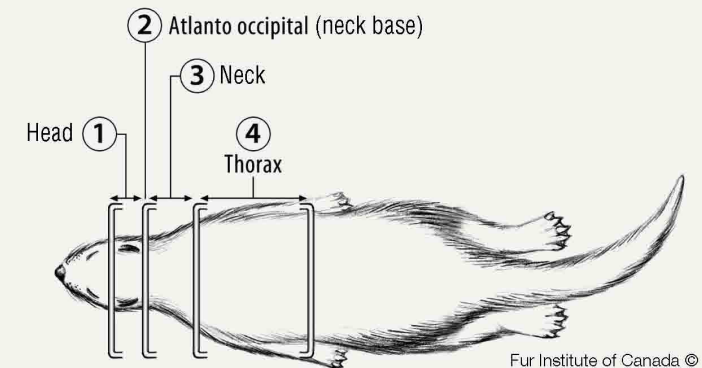
[http://www.fur.ca/TRS\\_certified\\_traps.php](http://www.fur.ca/TRS_certified_traps.php)

<http://www.mrnf.gouv.qc.ca/publications/enligne/faune/reglementation-piegeage/engins/anipsc.asp>



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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<http://www.mrnf.gouv.qc.ca/publications/enligne/faune/reglementation-piegeage/engins/anipsc.asp>

### To Get Optimal Lethal Strike Locations

**Lure Set  
"semi-submerged"**

**"Submerged"**

330 frame

280 frame

"On land" also

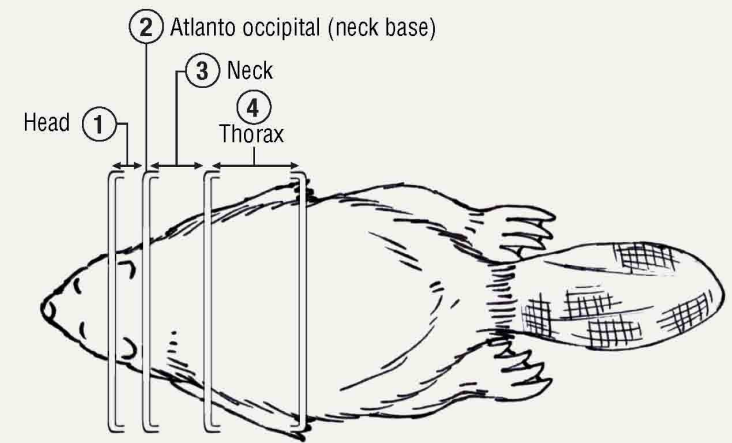
280 and 330 frame

**Lure Set  
"On land"**

✗ = Lure      ← = 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.



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

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### To Get Optimal Lethal Strike Locations

#### “Closed” Box trap

Double rotating jaws / baited trigger

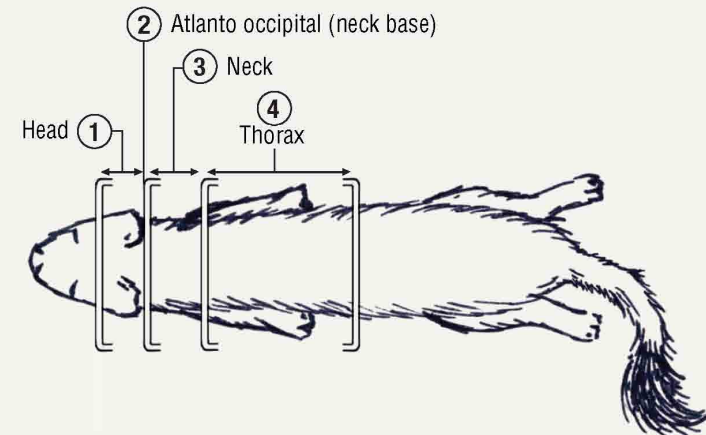
Reduced opening for better selectivity and approach by the animal

Modified Rat Trap

Plastic cone to ensure correct approach

● = Bait   ← = Approach by the animal

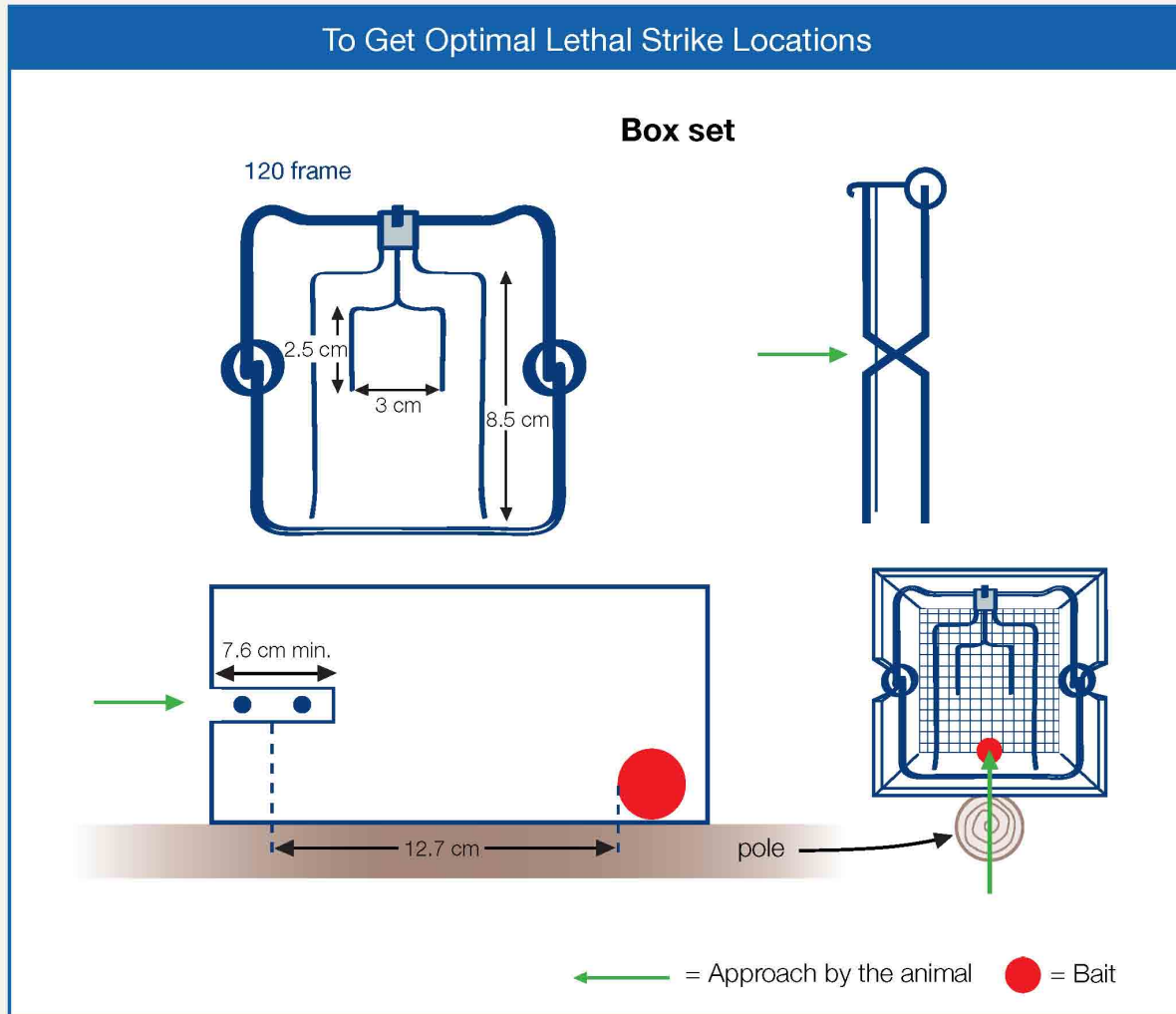
Strike Type	Recommended Strike Locations			
	①	②	③	④
Single	✓	✓	✓	✓



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

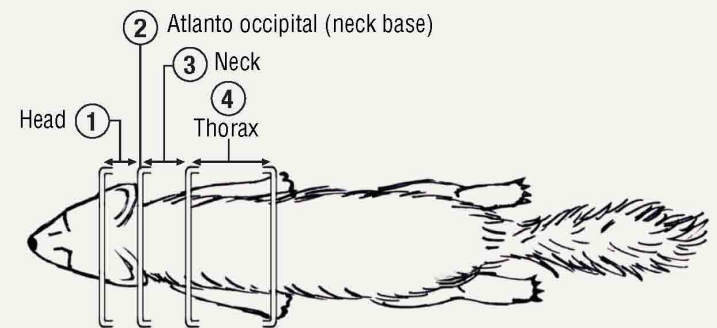
[http://www.fur.ca/TRS\\_certified\\_traps.php](http://www.fur.ca/TRS_certified_traps.php)

<http://www.mrnf.gouv.qc.ca/publications/enligne/faune/reglementation-piegeage/engins/anipsc.asp>



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

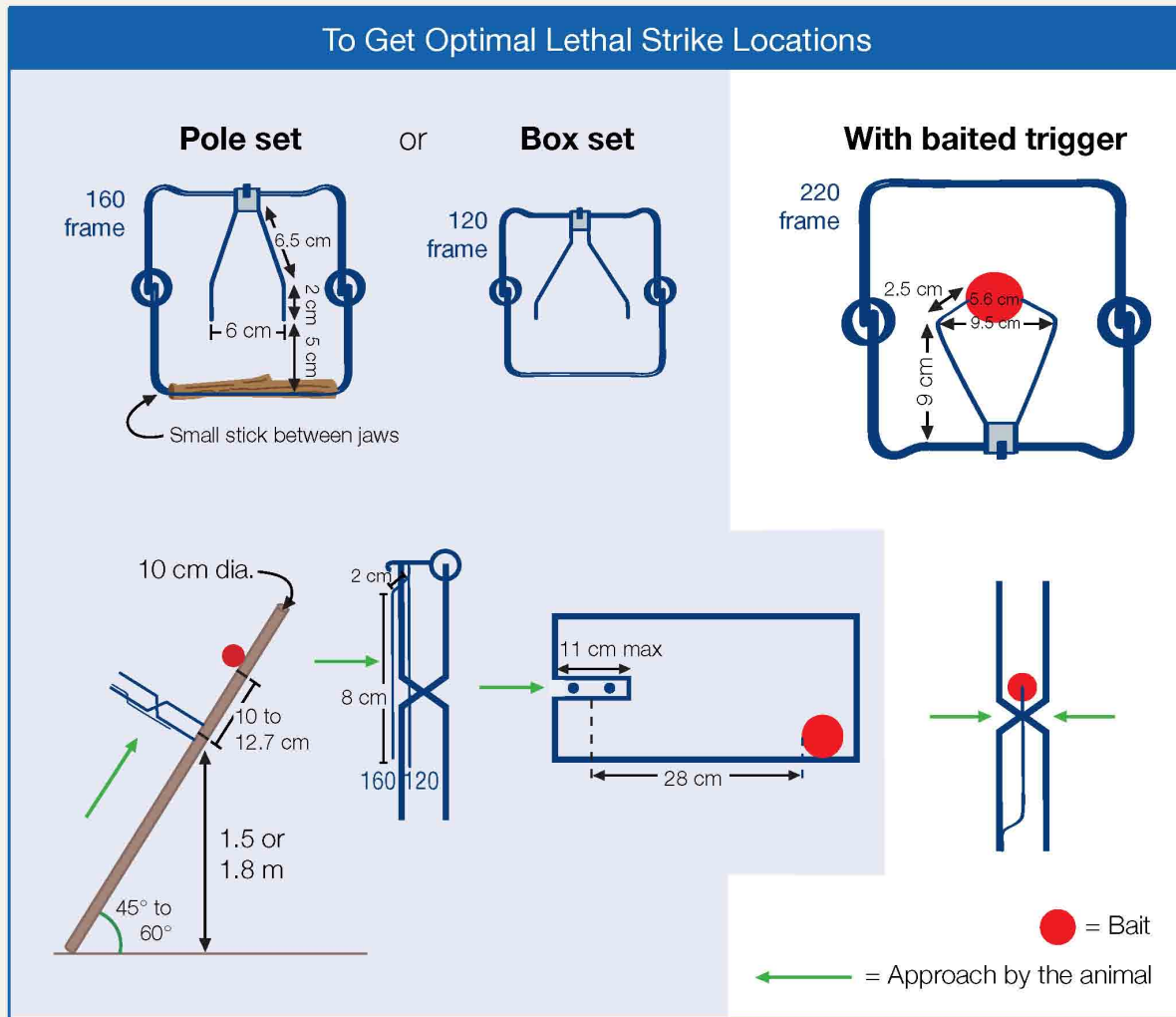
\* Any combination of thorax ④ and strike location ① or ② or ③.



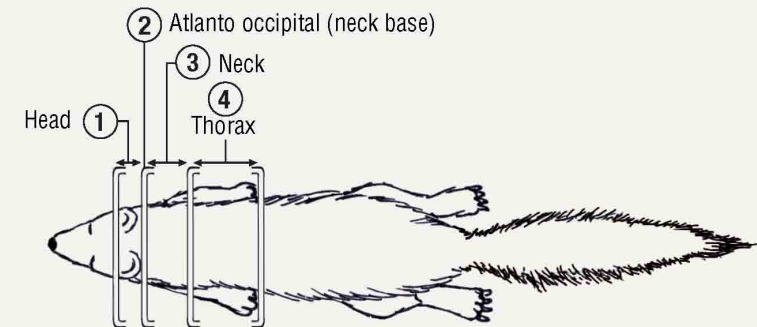
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Strike Type	Recommended Strike Location			
	①	②	③	④
Single		✓		

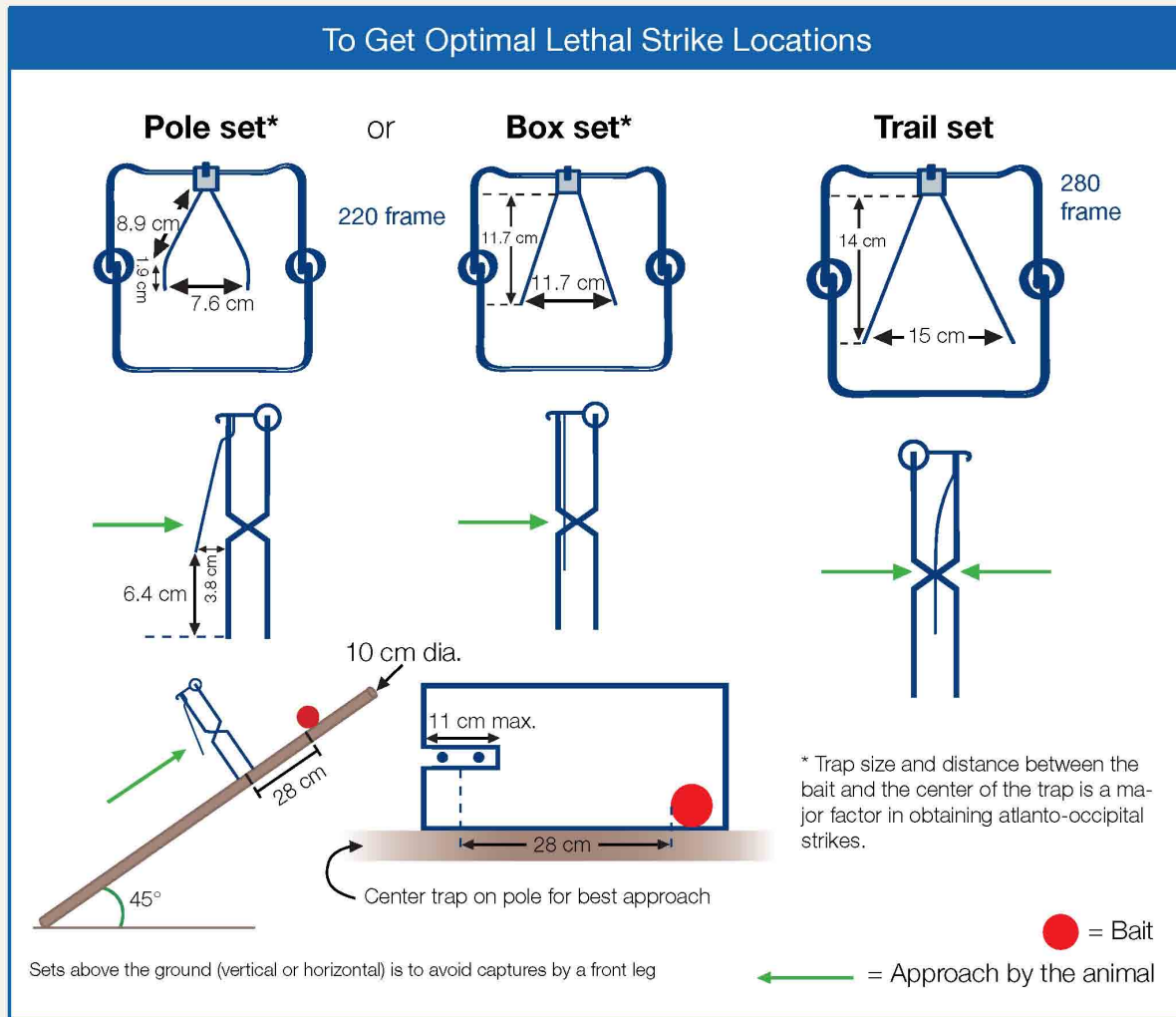


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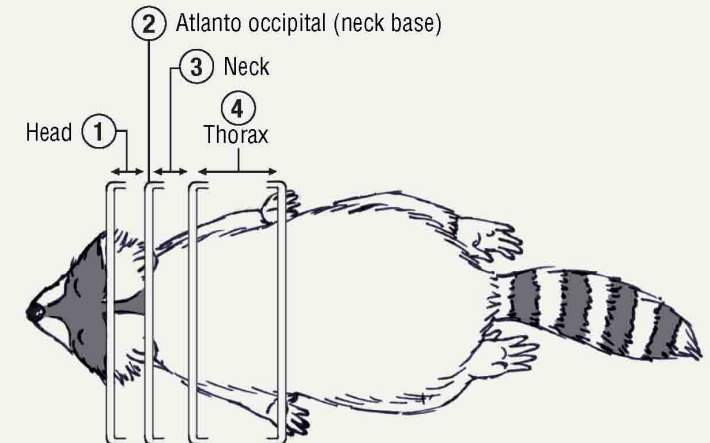
[http://www.fur.ca/TRS\\_certified\\_traps.php](http://www.fur.ca/TRS_certified_traps.php)

<http://www.mrnf.gouv.qc.ca/publications/enligne/faune/reglementation-piegeage/engins/anipsc.asp>





Strike Type	Recommended Strike Location			
	①	②	③	④
Single		✓		



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### To Get Optimal Lethal Strike Locations

**Set details**

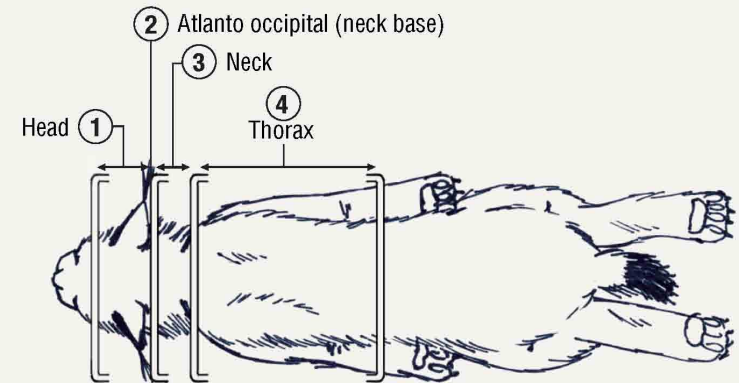
**Pull trigger**

← = Approach by the animal

● = Bait

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

Strike Type	Recommended Strike Location			
	①	②	③	④
Single			✓	

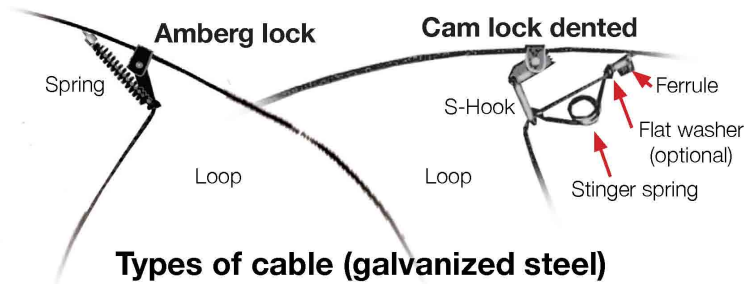


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**Efficient locks** (equipped with a compression spring)

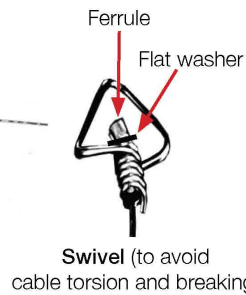
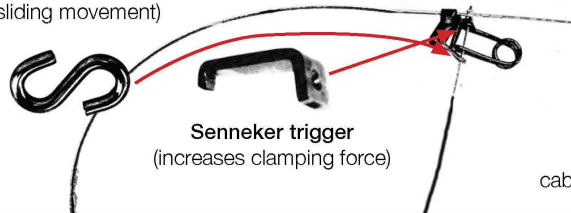


**Types of cable (galvanized steel)**

Target species	Diameter (inches)	Construction	Breaking point (lbs)
Lynx/Bobcat + Fox/Coyote	1/16 1/16	1 x 19 7 x 7	500 480
Coyote/Fox	5/64 5/64	1 x 19 7 x 7	800 650
Wolf	3/32 3/32	1 x 19 7 x 7	1 200 920

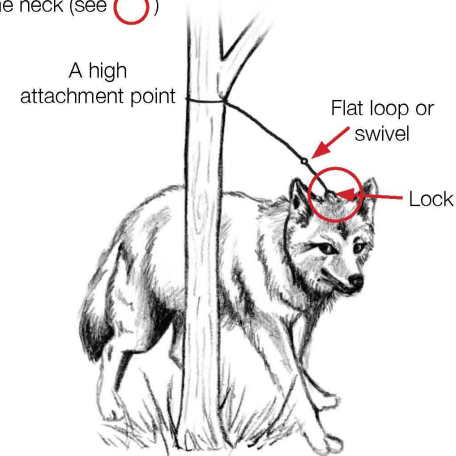
**Improving construction**

**S-Hook** (To avoid cervidae captures + provide better lock sliding movement)

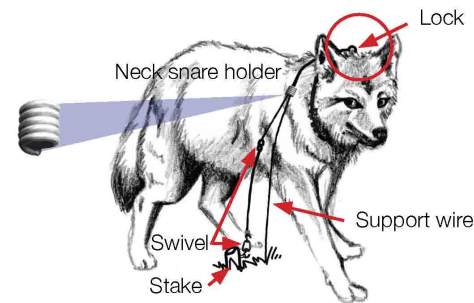


**Recommended attachment points**

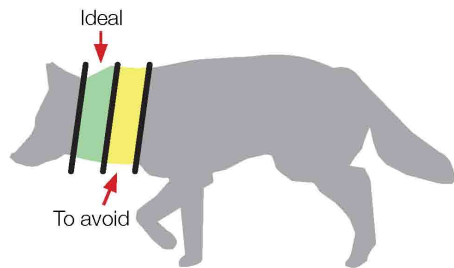
- Always tie off the snare for the largest possible animal you may catch
- To enable the neck snare to close behind the ears and a proper positioning of the lock on the dorsal part of the neck (see ○)



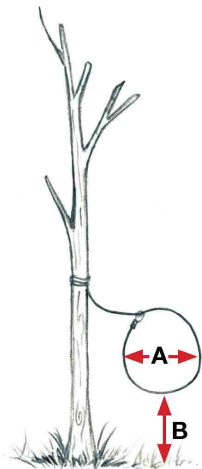
- Use of a neck snare holder (whammy) to provide a sufficient "temporary" resistance



**Stricking areas (Canidae + Felidae)**

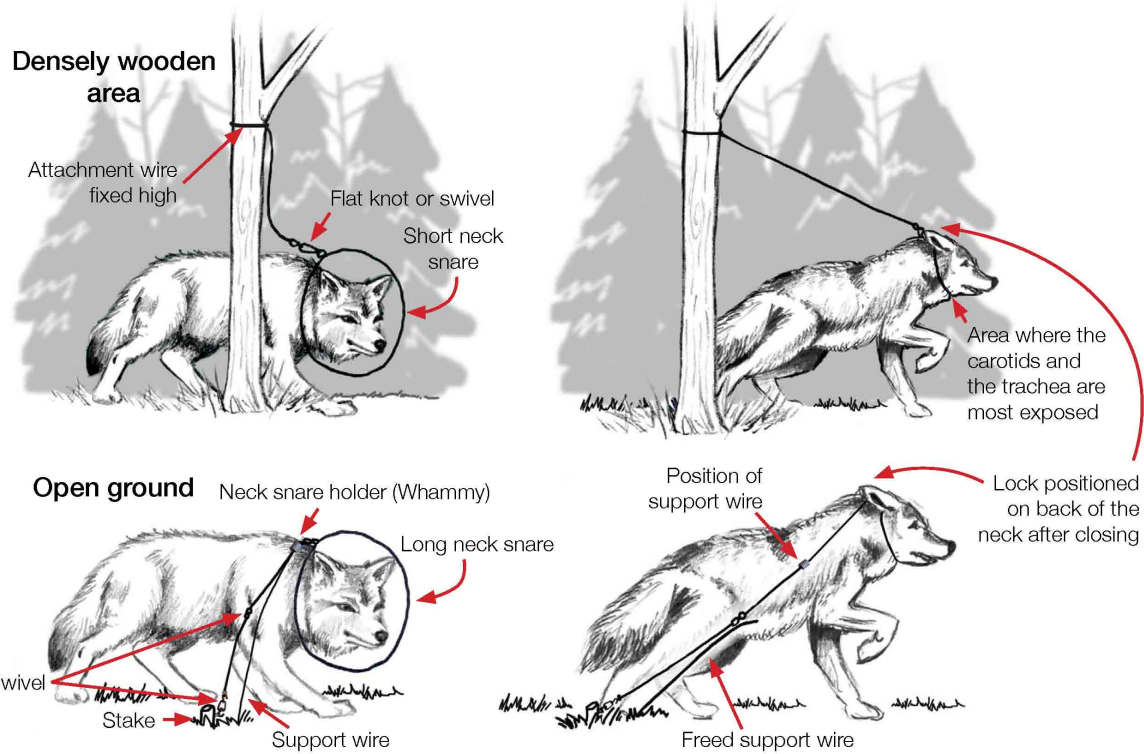


**Loop diameters and heights**



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**

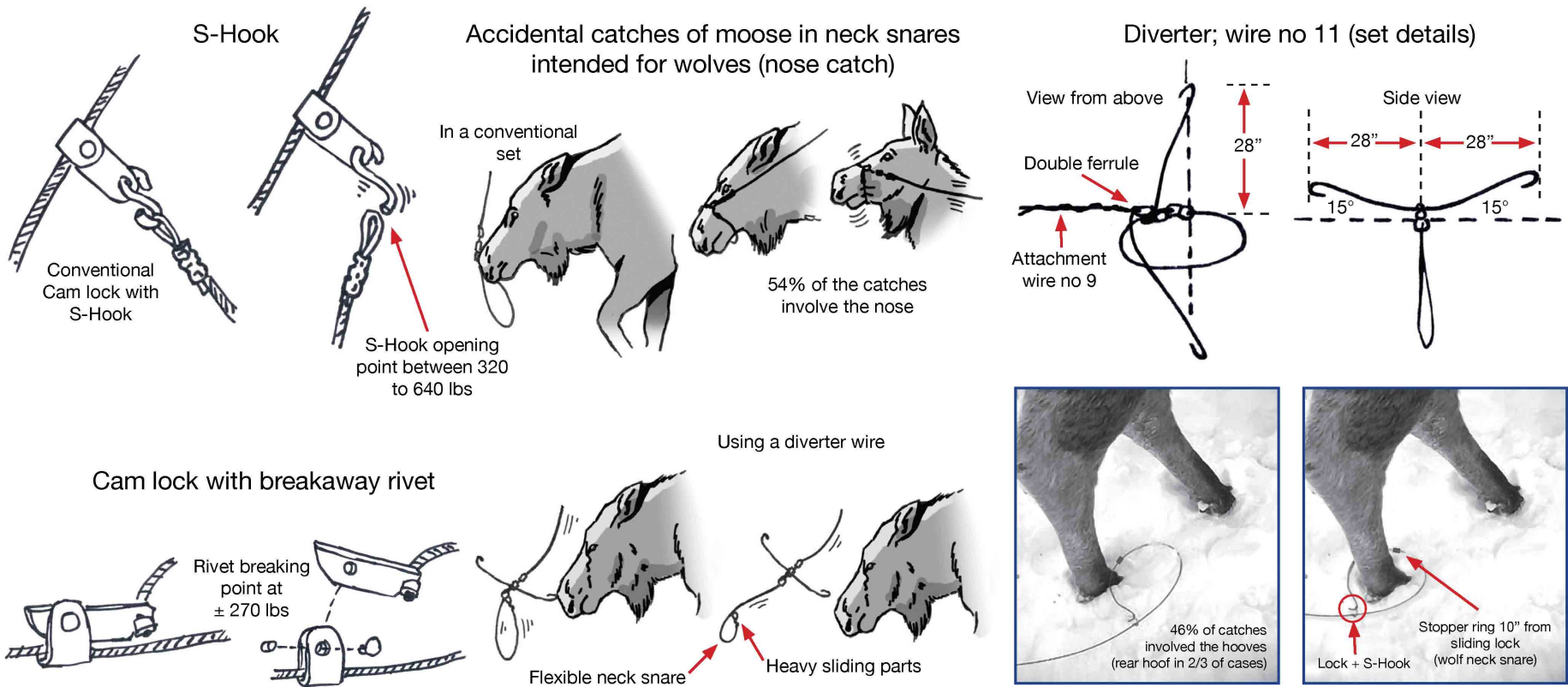


N.B. On top of these considerations, in order to ensure a rapid loss of unconsciousness and death, killing neck snares must be properly constructed: efficient locks equipped with compression spring, smallest possible cable wire diameter for the target species. The assembly must produce the best possible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

**Best Trapping Practices**

<b>ACCIDENTAL CATCHES</b> (Cervidae, cattle, sheep)	<b>KILLING NECK SNARES</b>
--	----------------------------

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



**Best Trapping Practices**

<b>ACCIDENTAL CATCHES</b> (eagles + birds of prey)	<b>KILLING NECK SNARES</b>
---	----------------------------

**Problems**

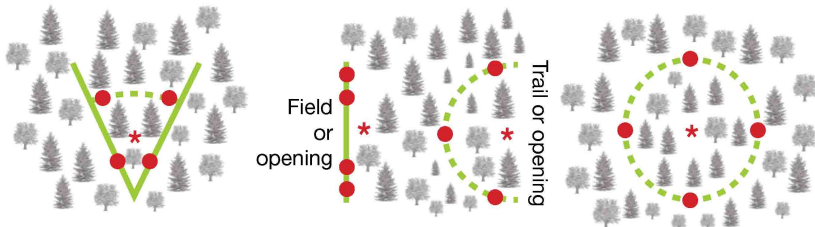
- Trapping period = critical period for migration
- **Solution :**



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

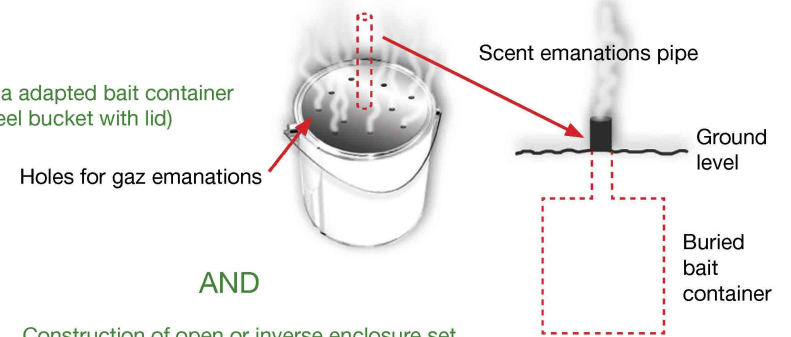
Natural dense  
vegetation edge

Made-up trail in dense  
vegetation or woodland

**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

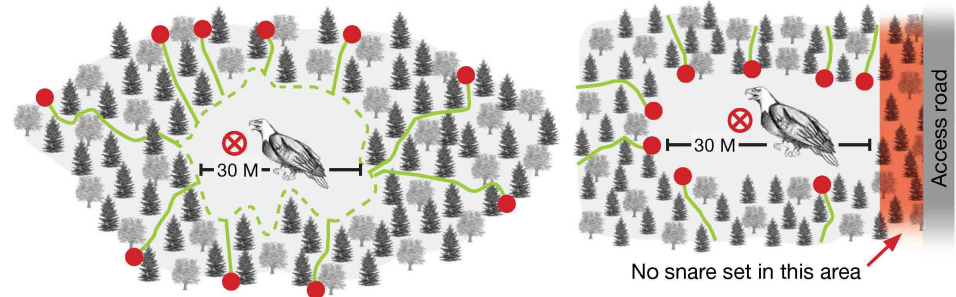
- Canid enclosure set: High risk trapping technique
- **Solution :**

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



AND

Construction of open or inverse enclosure set



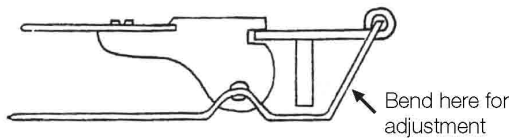
N.B. : the open surface must allow the birds of prey to easily land and take off close to the bait  
(if exposed to their sight)

Elements of trapping to avoid injuries / Limb Holding Traps

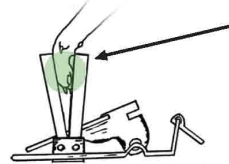
Daily check of the trap sets

Jaw type traps and certain footsnares

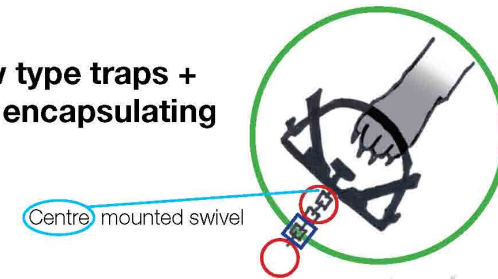
Proper adjustment of the pan trigger...



...Produces an appropriate strike location



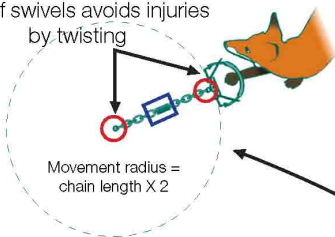
Jaw type traps +  
Foot encapsulating



Jaw Type Traps, Footsnares, Foot Encapsulating Traps

Use of swivels avoids injuries  
by twisting

Jean-François Houle ©



Shock absorber  
springs

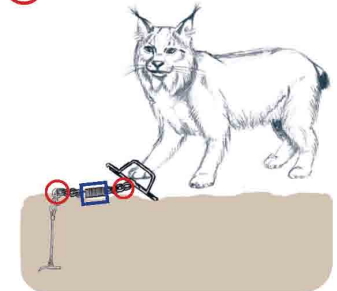
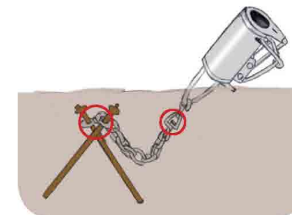


Strong (coyote, wolf)



Regular (fox)

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

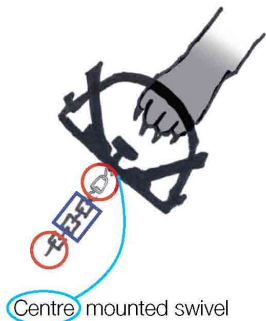
These specifications only apply to the species-specific  
live capture traps. For a list of certified traps for each spe-  
cies, see :

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[http://www.mrnf.gouv.qc.ca/publications/enligne/faune/regle-  
mentation-piegeage/engins/anipsc.asp](http://www.mrnf.gouv.qc.ca/publications/enligne/faune/regle-<br/>mentation-piegeage/engins/anipsc.asp)

Trap Set Details to Avoid Injuries

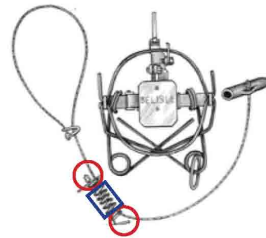
Jaw type trap



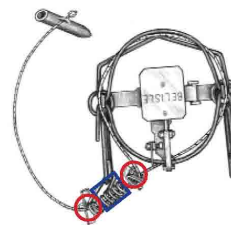
Centre mounted swivel

Footsnare

(not set)



(set)



Shock absorber  
springs



Strong (coyote, wolf)



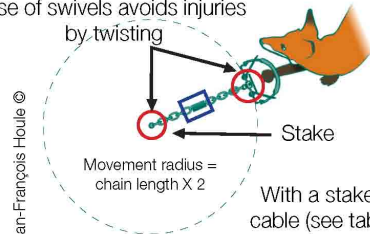
Regular (fox)

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  
footsnare

Use of swivels avoids injuries  
by twisting



Movement radius =  
chain length X 2

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

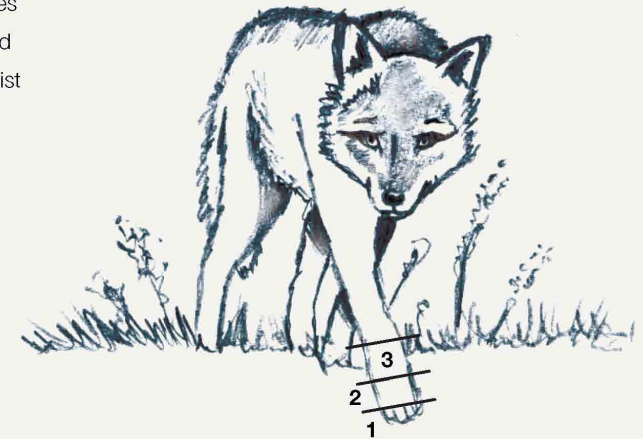
NB : For all footsnare cable, use stake only, no drag

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 :

[http://www.fur.ca/TRS\\_certified\\_traps.php](http://www.fur.ca/TRS_certified_traps.php)

<http://www.mrnf.gouv.qc.ca/publications/enligne/faune/reglementation-piegeage/engins/anipsc.asp>



### Trap Set Details To Avoid Injuries

#### Lil' Grizz Get'rz

- Bait set under pull trigger

± 60°

Light compacted soil

#### Egg trap

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

Ideal raccoon approach angle

#### Duffer

Compacted soil

Obstacle behind the trap

Compacted soil

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
	✓	



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

[http://www.fur.ca/TRS\\_certified\\_traps.php](http://www.fur.ca/TRS_certified_traps.php)

<http://www.mrnf.gouv.qc.ca/publications/enligne/faune/reglementation-piegeage/engins/anipsc.asp>



Best Trapping Practices

CANADA LYNX LIVE CAPTURE



### Trap Set Details to Avoid Injuries

**Trap anchoring**  
- Stake only  
- Short (max. length 24.5 cm)

Centre mounted swivel

2 swivels + shock spring

Favour this type of strike...

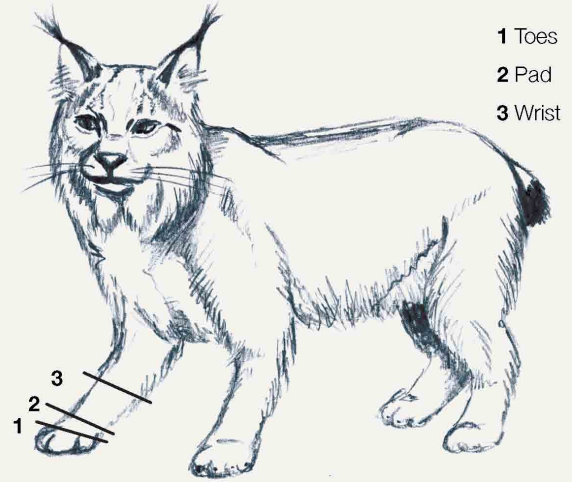
...To obtain this strike, properly position the trap

Set only for capture by one front foot

← = Approach by the animal    ○ = Swivel

### FOOTSNARE / JAW TYPE TRAP

Optimal Strike Locations		
1	2	3
✓	✓	



- 1 Toes
- 2 Pad
- 3 Wrist

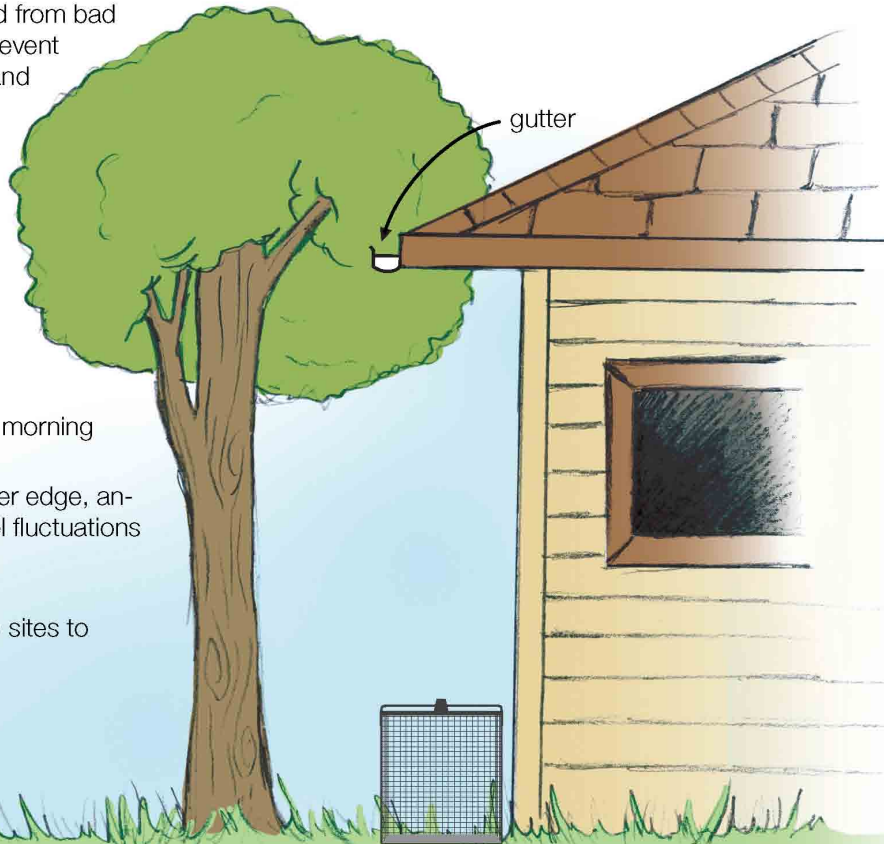
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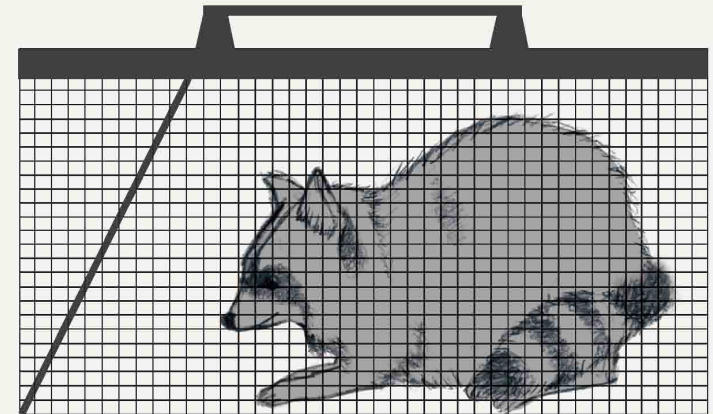
### Installation Details

- Cage set in the shade and if possible protected from bad weather and 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 :

[http://www.fur.ca/TRS\\_certified\\_traps.php](http://www.fur.ca/TRS_certified_traps.php)

<http://www.mrnf.gouv.qc.ca/publications/enligne/faune/reglementation-piegeage/engins/anipsc.asp>



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