Trapping

REGULATIONS

Traps, Leg-hold

It is illegal to possess or use any steel-jawed leg-hold type trap (i.e., any coil-spring or longspring trap) anywhere in New Jersey. Foot-encapsulating traps which do not fall under this trap category may be possessed and used.

Traps, Live-capture

Cable Restraints

- No person shall set, use or maintain any type of snare unless they have first passed a Fish and Wildlife-approved trapper education course and carry on their person appropriate certification thereof.

- All live capture cable restraints must include a relaxing-type lock, except when submerged underwater or when set for mink, muskrat, nutria or weasel.

- A relaxing lock is defined as one that stops tightening when the animal stops pulling against the cable restraint. Cam-locks and spring-assisted locking systems are prohibited.

- All natural baits consisting of fish, bird or mammal carcasses or flesh used in trapping with live-capture cable restraints must be covered or concealed from view except when placed at least 30 feet from any trap set.

- Live-capture cable restraints set for mink, muskrat, nutria and weasel are subject to the following requirements:
  - All such traps must be constructed of aircraft cable or crucible wire measuring 1/32, 3/64 or 1/16 inches in diameter, equipped with a swivel; and,
  - All such traps must be set so that the distance between the ground/walking surface to the top of the loop does not exceed 7 inches.

- Live-capture cable restraints set for coyote, fox, opossum, raccoon and skunk shall be subject to the following requirements:
  - All such traps must be constructed of aircraft cable or crucible wire measuring 5/64 to 3/16 inches in diameter and be equipped with a swivel and a relaxing-type lock;
  - All such traps must be equipped with a deer stop located no less than 6 inches from the beginning of the cable and a loop stop to prevent the average loop diameter from exceeding 12 inches; and,
  - All such traps must be set so that the distance between the ground/walking surface to the top of the loop does not exceed 24 inches.

The above requirements for cable diameters, loop stops and loop sizes do not apply to body gripping restraining snares that are completely submerged underwater at all times (e.g., when set for beaver or river otter).

Traps, Live-capture

Foot Encapsulating

Enclosed or foot encapsulating (also known as enclosed foothold or dog-proof traps) traps are now legal for trapping. These traps have been specifically designed to capture species such as raccoon and opossum (which possess a degree of manual dexterity) while minimizing the capture of non-target animals especially domestic dogs and cats. Enclosed foothold traps are a live-restraint trap which do not result in the death of the captured animal or in the potential for significant injury. These traps are subject to the following requirements:

- All triggering and restraining mechanisms shall be enclosed by a housing.

- The triggering and restraining mechanism is accessible only by a single opening when the trap is set.

- The access opening does not exceed 2 inches in diameter or when measured diagonally.

- The triggering mechanism can be activated only by a pulling force.

- The trap has a swivel-mounted anchoring system.

Be a Conservation-Minded Trapper

If an accidental bobcat trapping occurs, it is mandatory that you immediately call NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife’s Trapper Response Team at (877) WARN-DEP (877-927-6337) while the bobcat is held in the trap so that we may obtain genetic samples.

For tips to avoid the accidental capture of bobcat or to prevent injury if one is trapped, scan the QR code, to the right.

Scan this code for Trapping Tips to Prevent the Accidental Capture of —and Injury to — Bobcat or visit NJFishandWildlife.com/qr/traptips.htm

Have You Seen This Cat?

New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife needs your help by reporting bobcat sightings so we can better understand the size, distribution and genetic structure of our bobcat population.

Contact our agency if you have observed a bobcat:

- Live and trail cam photos— Complete a brief sighting report form: www.nj.gov/dep/fgw/ensp/rprtform.htm. Data from south Jersey is of particular interest.

- Dead on the road—call 1-877-WARN-DEP (877-927-6337) to report the carcass location.

It is illegal to possess incidentally trapped or road-killed bobcat from New Jersey.