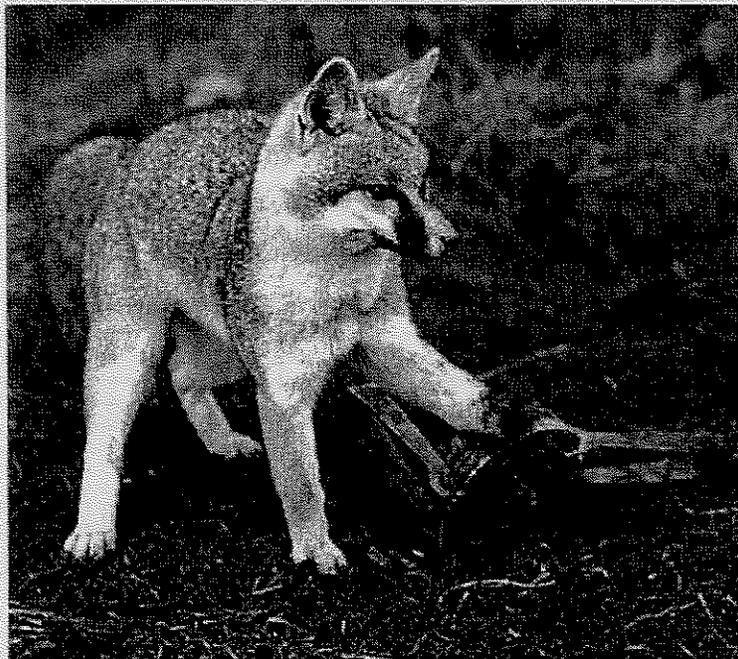


A Legislator's Guide to the Trapping Debate

Dr. Nan Zyla, President

HARP, Inc. ©

Humane Alternatives for Resolving Problems



*Though men trap animals in sport,
the animals do not die in sport, they die in earnest.
--From Plutarch*

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Leghold traps are known as **LAND MINES FOR ANIMALS** and are:

 Declared inhumane by the American Veterinary Medical Association, American Animal Hospital Association, and World Veterinary Organization.

 Completely indiscriminate: Children and even adults have been caught in leghold traps, in addition to dogs and cats, birds, deer and other animals.

 Since the "target" of traps cannot be predicted, traps cannot be considered a management tool for any specific wildlife population.

 Many animals chew or twist off their limbs in desperation to escape. Pets caught in leghold traps have had their legs amputated because they were so badly maimed in the trap.

 So-called "padded" leghold traps have extremely hard strips of thin rubber required by DEP regulations to be "not less than 3/32 inch thick" -- about the thickness of a credit card!

 Bodily and dental injuries resulting from an animal biting at the metal trap are similar in both steel-jawed and "padded"-jaw leghold traps.

 Banned in at least 89 countries and several states including Massachusetts, New Jersey and Rhode Island.

 Killing (Conibear) traps are similarly inhumane.

 Snares have been illegal in Connecticut since 1955.

 Box traps (trap and release) are a humane alternative.

"Some who reflect on this subject [traps] for the first time will wonder how such cruelty can have been permitted in this age of civilization; and no doubt if men of education saw with their own eyes what takes place under their sanction, the system would have put an end to it long ago." -- Charles Darwin, Gardeners' Chronicle and Agricultural Gazette, 1863.

CONTENTS

	Page
Executive Summary	
Questions and Answers on Traps.	1
"Ban the Leghold Trap" -- <u>Hartford Courant</u> editorial.	5
State Prohibitions on Leghold, Kill-type, and Snare Traps.	6
List of Countries Banning Leghold Traps.	9
DEP - Furbearer Trapping Seasons and Regulations.	10
Connecticut Trapping Case Report Summary.	11
Model Bill to Ban Body-Gripping Traps.	12
Model Legislation.	13
Charles Darwin on Trapping - 1863.	14
HARP Brochure.	15

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS ON TRAPS

1. What types of traps are there?

There are three main categories of traps:

- (1) leghold traps and snares;
- (2) killing (Conibear) traps;
- (3) live traps.

2. What traps are legal in Connecticut?

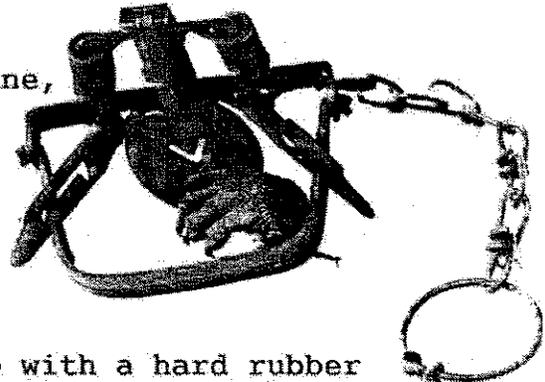
All the above-mentioned types of traps are legal in Connecticut, with the exception of snares. DEP lists the following as legal traps: "Box Traps, Live Traps, Deadfalls, Padded and Unpadded Metal Traps, Smooth Wire Traps [also called killing traps, Conibear, body-crushing, or body-grabbing], and Species Specific Traps" (CT Hunting and Trapping Guide, 2006, p. 28). Steel-jawed and "padded" leghold traps are legal in CT (Ct. Regs. Sec. 22-66-5(a)). Steel-jawed leghold traps can be set only below the surface of the water. "Padded" traps can be used on land if set in an animal's burrow or below the surface of the water (Ct. Regs. Sec. 22-66-5(b)).

3. Where have traps been banned?

Eighty-nine countries have banned leghold traps, as have the states of Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Rhode Island, and Washington (Humane Society of the United States/Office of Legislative Research).

4. What is a steel-jawed leghold trap?

The steel-jawed leghold trap is an inhumane, barbaric device designed to capture and hold an animal by a limb so as not to damage the body fur. The trap's two spring-powered, metal jaws slam shut when an animal steps on the trigger.



5. What is a "padded"-jaw leghold trap?

This is simply a steel-jawed leghold trap with a hard rubber coating on the jaws, required by DEP regulations to be "not less than 3/32 inch thick" -- about the thickness of a credit card!

Bodily injuries and dental injuries resulting from an animal biting at the metal trap are similar in both the steel-jawed and "padded"-jaw leghold traps. Sadly, an animal often initially thinks he can escape from a "padded"-jaw trap if only he can bite through the hard rubber, but instead cruelly incurs broken teeth discovering this does not free him.

6. What do leghold traps do to an animal?

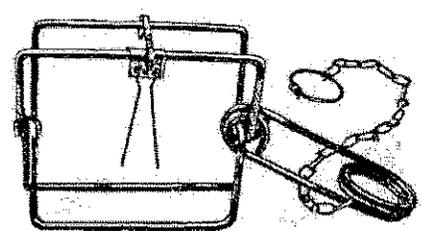
Animals caught by the heavy steel jaws of the leghold trap suffer excruciating pain on impact; the force of the action of the trap is so strong it can tear flesh, cut tendons and ligaments, and actually break bones. When an animal struggles to free himself, he worsens his injuries.

A trapped animal often desperately chews or twists off the limb caught in the trap in his panic-stricken effort to escape. The victim can struggle in pain and anguish for an incalculable length of time (DEP regulations specify that all traps must be tended within a 24-hour period, but enforcement may be problematic). An animal can die from dehydration, blood loss, hypothermia, and predation by other animals before the trapper returns to kill him.

Leghold traps are also set underwater or set so that an animal is pulled underwater. Trapped underwater, an animal struggles for several minutes before he dies. The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) has declared death by drowning to be inhumane. Beavers caught underwater in a leghold trap take ten minutes to die from lack of oxygen (Humane Society of the U.S.)

Both the AVMA and the American Animal Hospital Association have declared the steel-jaw leghold trap inhumane. Former government trapper Dick Randall called the leghold trap "one of the cruelest devices ever invented by man" (The Animals' Agenda, November/December 1997, p. 32).

7. What is the killing (Conibear) trap?



The killing (Conibear; also called body-crushing or body-gripping) trap is made of two metal rectangular jaws hinged at the sides with a spring affixed to one or both sides. When an animal walks or swims through the center of the rectangles and brushes up against the trigger, the trap's jaws close with a scissors-like action on his body.

8. What does the killing trap do to an animal?

This body-crushing trap is designed to snap shut on the spinal column at the base of the skull for a "quick kill." However, the trap often misses this vital spot or does not close with enough force to kill the animal instantly or even render him unconscious. The trap's jaws frequently clamp down on the chest or pelvis, crushing bones, blood vessels, and nerves and causing excruciating pain and a prolonged death.

9. How many trappers are there?

DEP licenses about 370 trappers in Connecticut (Office of Legislative Research).

10. Do we know how many animals there are?

How can DEP allow hunters and trappers to kill certain species (for example, porcupines) that may be rare or nonexistent in the state? What are the numbers and methods of counting populations DEP is using? Since trapping kills indiscriminately, it is unknown whether rare or **endangered species** are being killed off entirely or even being brought to dangerously low levels.

Although DEP can tell us how many trappers are licensed, can they tell us how many animals of different species there are? After repeated requests of DEP, we don't even know the numbers of different populations of animals, or even the DEP's methodology for counting them. This is especially important since DEP frequently declares certain species (for example, deer) "overpopulated," and thus targets them for hunters and trappers. On what scientific bases are these declarations made?

11. Is trapping an appropriate tool for wildlife management?

No. Trapping does not ensure stable, healthy wildlife populations. And traps are indiscriminate, so the target of traps cannot be predicted. Trapping is harmful to animal populations because it removes healthy animals and leaves behind those who may be sick (Humane Society of the U. S. Fact Sheet on Trapping).

12. Does trapping control populations?

According to John Kirsch, Ph.D., Associate Curator of Mammalogy, Harvard University, "It is clear that reducing a population by trapping just forces it back into the fast growth phase. I would have to argue that trapping is ineffective in controlling natural populations" (Friends of Animals Fact Sheet on Leghold Traps). Again, trapping cannot target any specific population.

13. Does trapping control "nuisance" wildlife?

As the human population expands into wildlife habitats, our encounters with wildlife become more frequent. Respect and understanding for the animal members of our communities should be our guides in solving problems between humans and wildlife.

Many types of nonlethal, humane solutions are available: water-level control devices for beavers (such as those using PVC pipes, "Beaver Deceivers" and "Beaver Baffles") animal-proof trash containers, chimney caps, and one-way doors are just a few. The indiscriminate nature of traps makes them dangerous to use in urban and suburban areas (Humane Society of the United States Fact Sheet on Trapping).

14. What are the problems with trapping, in addition to cruelty?

Traps are **indiscriminate**. Traps in the U.S. injure and kill millions of "nontarget" animals each year -- domestic dogs and cats, rabbits, deer, songbirds, raptors, livestock, and even endangered species. Disrespectfully referred to as "trash" animals by trappers, nontarget wildlife often are simply thrown away.

Injuries from leghold traps are often so severe that the injured limb of a trapped pet must be amputated. Conibear traps, however, kill many of their unintended victims (Humane Society of the U. S. Fact Sheet on Trapping).

The official report on trapping of the California Department of Fish and Game documents large numbers of nontarget species being caught in traps: in Colusa County, 26 **target** muskrats and 19 **nontarget** animals; in Tehama County, 7 **target** coyotes and 85 **nontarget** animals; in San Diego County, 42 **target** bobcats and 91 **nontarget** species.

Traps can be considered land mines for animals.

15. Where is trapping allowed?

Trapping is allowed on private property with the landowner's permission. Trapping is also permitted on state land; this includes state forests, land leased to or owned by the state and land managed under agreement by the DEP.

Because of the danger traps pose to children, pets, and the average citizen, the non-trapping public is precluded from using state land on which traps are set. This restriction in the use of state lands by the taxpayers who do not trap (the overwhelming majority of the population of the state) is an infringement of these citizens' rights.

16. Is HARP opposed to trapping?

No, provided it's done humanely and the animals are not killed. Animals can be live-trapped and relocated. Therefore, HARP supports trapping if it is done to address "nuisance" problems or to protect farmers' crops.

To know that one life has breathed easier because you have lived:
this is to have succeeded.

-- Ralph Waldo Emerson

Ban the leghold trap

Thurs Jan 15, 1987

Let this be the year that the Legislature finally bans the cruel and indiscriminating leghold trap in Connecticut.

No persuasive case can be made for permitting the use of these bone-crushing devices. They catch more dogs, cats, squirrels, rabbits, birds, deer and other non-target animals than the fur-bearing varieties sought by legitimate trappers. The traps also pose a threat to humans, especially children. The leghold trap's victim — whatever its species — is condemned to a fate of intense suffering.

Banning the leghold trap — as New Jersey and Rhode Island have done — would not deprive many people, if any, of their primary source of income. Most trapping in Connecti-

cut is done for sport, not for business. Nor is the leghold trap needed to remove nuisance wildlife such as raccoons and skunks. In fact, if it's used legally, it's ineffective. Box traps work better for nuisance animals, and are humane.

Fewer than 1,000 licensed trappers in Connecticut have managed to keep their critics at bay, and the Legislature doing their bidding, for years — even though studies show that an overwhelming majority of the state's people oppose the traps.

It's time the Legislature ignored the trappers' narrow interest. The leghold traps are inhumane, are widely used in an illegal manner and should be banned.



State Prohibitions on Leghold, Kill-type, and Snare Traps

Leghold:			
State	Exception(s)	Law	How Enacted
Arizona 09/12/86	public lands; human health/safety, rodent control, wildlife research/relocation. (jaws must be padded or offset)	ARIZ. REV. STAT. ANN. § 17-301 D; ARIZ. ADMIN. CODE 12-4-307	Initiative/Regulation
California 11/03/98	human health/safety (jaws must be padded)	CAL. FISH & GAME CODE § 3003.1	Initiative
Colorado 01/15/97	human health/safety, rodent control, wildlife research/relocation, by permit for animal damage control for up to 30 days (jaws must be padded)	COLO. REV. STAT. §§ 33-6-203, 33-6-207, 33-6-208; 8 COLO. CODE REGS. § 1201-12	Initiative/Regulation
Florida 1979 & last amended 1998	by permit for animal damage control (jaws must be padded)	FLA. ADMIN. CODE ANN. r. 68A-12.009 (4), 68A-24.002(3); FL Hunting Handbook & Regulations	Regulation/Policy
Massachusetts 11/05/96	human health/safety	MASS. GEN. LAWS ch. 131, § 80A	Initiative
New Jersey 1984	none	N.J. REV. STAT. §§ 23:4-22.1 to 23:4-22.7	Legislation
Rhode Island 1981	by permit for animal damage control for up to 90 days	R.I. GEN. LAWS § 20-16-8	Legislation
Washington 11/07/00	by permit for human health/safety, endangered species protection, wildlife research, animal damage control for up to 30 days (jaws must be padded)	WASH. REV. CODE § 77.15.194 - 77.15.198	Initiative
Conibear (Kill):			
State	Exception(s)	Law	How Enacted
Arizona 1994	public lands; human health/safety, rodent control, wildlife research/relocation	ARIZ. REV. STAT. ANN. § 17-301 D	Initiative
California 11/03/98	all purposes except recreation or commerce in fur	CAL. FISH & GAME CODE § 3003.1	Initiative
Colorado 01/15/97	human health/safety, rodent control, by permit for animal damage control for up to 30 days	COLO. REV. STAT. §§ 33-6-203, 33-6-207, 33-6-208	Initiative

State	Exception(s)	Law	How Enacted
Connecticut 02/16/94	water sets	CONN. AGENCIES REGS. § 26-66-5	Regulation
Florida 1997 & last amended 1998	none	FLA. ADMIN. CODE ANN. r. 68A-24.002 (3)	Regulation
Maryland -unknown-	water sets	MD. REGS. CODE tit. 08, § 03.06.03	Regulation
Massachusetts 11/05/96	human health/safety, by permit for beaver/muskrat damage control	MASS. GEN. LAWS ch. 131, § 80A	Initiative
New Jersey 1971	water sets	N.J. REV. STAT. § 23:4-38.2	Legislation
Oklahoma -unknown-	water sets	OK Dept. of Wildlife Conservation Hunting Regulations	Policy
Pennsylvania -unknown-	water sets	PA Game Commission Hunting & Trapping Regulations	Policy
South Carolina 1993	water sets	S.C. CODE ANN. § 50-11-2410	Legislation
South Dakota 1987	water sets	S.D. ADMIN. R. 41:08:02:06	Regulation
Washington 11/07/00	water sets by permit for human health/safety, endangered species protection, animal damage control for up to 30 days	WASH. REV. CODE § 77.15.194 - 77.15.198	Initiative
West Virginia -unknown-	water sets	W. VA. CODE ST. R. § 58-53-3	Regulation
Snare:			
State	Exception(s)	Law	How Enacted
Alabama 1982 & last amended 1997	water sets; powered foot snare with max loop of 5-1/2 inches (neck/body snares illegal on land)	ALA. ADMIN. CODE r. 220-2-.30	Regulation
Arizona 09/12/82	none	ARIZ. ADMIN. CODE 12-4-307	Regulation
California 11/03/98	all purposes except recreation or commerce in fur	CAL. FISH & GAME CODE § 3003.1	Initiative
Colorado 01/15/97	human health/safety, rodent control, wildlife research/relocation (nonlethal), by permit for animal damage control for up to 30 days	COLO. REV. STAT. §§ 33-6-203, 33-6- 207, 33-6-208	Initiative
Connecticut 1955	none	CONN. GEN. STAT. § 26-72	Legislation
Illinois -unknown-	water sets	520 ILL. COMP. STAT. 5/2.33	Legislation

State	Exception(s)	Law	How Enacted
Maine 1979, 1979, & 1993	foot snares for bear; water sets for beaver	ME. REV. STAT. ANN. tit. 12, §§ 7432, 7452, 7453-B	Legislation
Massachusetts 11/05/96	human health/safety	MASS. GEN. LAWS ch. 131, § 80A	Initiative
Michigan -unknown-	water sets	Michigan Dept. of Natural Resources Hunting & Trapping Guide	Policy
Missouri 1957 & last amended 1996	water sets	MO. CODE REGS. ANN. tit. 3, § 10-8.510	Regulation
New Hampshire 1935 & last amended 1998	water sets for beaver and otter	N.H. REV. STAT. ANN. § 207:10	Legislation
New York 1972	none	N.Y. ENVTL. CONSERV. LAW § 11-1101	Legislation
North Carolina 1935 & last amended 1999; 1991 & last amended 1997	water sets for beaver	N.C. GEN. STAT. §§ 113-291.1, 113- 291.9	Legislation
Oklahoma 1974 & last amended 2000	none	OKLA. STAT. tit. 29, § 29-5-502	Legislation
Pennsylvania 1979 & last amended 2000	water sets for beaver	58 PA. CODE § 141.6	Regulation
Rhode Island 1981	none	R.I. GEN. LAWS § 20- 16-6	Legislation
South Carolina 1993	water sets for beaver	S.C. CODE ANN. § 50-11-2410	Legislation
Vermont 05/09/61	none	VT. STAT. ANN. tit. 10, § 4706	Legislation
Washington 11/07/00	foot snare by permit for human health/safety, endangered species protection, wildlife research, animal damage control for up to 30 days	WASH. REV. CODE § 77.15.194 - 77.15.198	Initiative
West Virginia -unknown-	water sets; foot snares with max loop of 6-1/2 inches (neck/body snares illegal on land)	W. VA. CODE ST. R. § 58-53-3	Regulation
Wisconsin 07/01/88	water sets	WIS. ADMIN. CODE § NR 10.13	Regulation

The use of the leghold trap is prohibited in:

Austria	Malawi
Bahrain	Malaysia
Bangladesh	Maldives
Belize	Mozambique
Benin	Monaco
Botswana	Mali
Brazil	Mauritania
British Columbia, Canada	Morocco
British West Indies	Netherlands
Burundi	Niger
Cameroun	Nigeria
Chile	Norway
Costa Rica	Nicaragua
Columbia	Portugal
Cuba	Panama (Rep. of)
Cyprus (Republic of)	Philippines
Denmark	Scotland
Dominican Republic	Seychelles
England	Singapore
Equatorial Guinea	Sweden
Gambia	Switzerland
Ghana	Sri Lanka
German Federal Republic	Senegal
Guyana	Swaziland
Greece	Thailand
Gabon	Trinidad & Tobago
Hong Kong	Tunisia
Hungary	Tanzania
India	Togo
Ireland	United Arab
Israel	Emirates
Italy	Uganda
Ivory Coast	Upper Volta
Jamaica	Wales
Jordan	Zambia
Liberia	Zaire
Liechtenstein	Zimbabwe

and 16 other countries.

Source: Friends of Animals "The Case Against Leghold Traps"

**States that ban leghold traps:
AZ, CA, CO, FL, MA, NJ, RI, WA**

CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

FURBEARER TRAPPING SEASONS AND REGULATIONS

LEGAL TRAPS AND METHODS

Furbearing animals for which there is an open trapping season may be taken by **Box Traps, Live Traps, Deadfalls, Padded and Unpadded Metal Traps, Smooth Wire Traps, and Species Specific Traps** subject to the following restrictions.

UNPADDED METAL TRAP RESTRICTIONS

1. May only be used below the surface of the water in a pond, lake, stream, spring hole, or tidal water.
2. Opening greater than 5 3/4" is prohibited, except that traps with an opening of up to 7 1/2" may be set for beaver in waters frequented by beaver.

PADDED METAL TRAP RESTRICTIONS

1. May only be used in the burrow of a wild animal or below the surface of the water in a pond, lake, stream, spring hole, or tidal water. Except that, any person who has completed a DEP approved special land trapping course may use padded metal traps on or below ground from December 1 through January 31 for the taking of coyotes on private land parcels of at least 10 contiguous acres where the landowner has given written permission explicitly for the use of such traps. When trapping coyotes in this manner, no visible bait may be used, pan tension must be two pounds or greater, and traps must be securely anchored to the ground.
2. Opening greater than 5 15/16" is prohibited, except that traps with an opening of up to 7 1/2" may be set for beaver in waters frequented by beaver.

SMOOTH WIRE TRAP RESTRICTIONS

1. May only be used below the surface of the water in a pond, lake, stream, spring hole, or tidal water. Except, smooth wire traps having an opening of 4 3/4" or less may extend above the surface of the water provided a portion of the trap frame remains in contact with the water.
2. Opening greater than 6 1/2" is prohibited, except that Conibears and similar smooth wire traps with an opening of up to 10" may be set for beaver in waters frequented by beaver.

THE FOLLOWING ARE PROHIBITED:

- The use of any type of snare.
- Traps placed, set, or tended within 10 feet of the waterline of a muskrat or beaver house, including bank beaver.
- Traps with serrations or teeth.

TRAPPERS ARE REQUIRED TO:

- Attach their name legibly to all traps.
- Obtain, and have in possession, the written permission of the landowner when trapping on their land. **WRITTEN PERMISSION MUST BE RENEWED ANNUALLY.**
- Tend all traps within a 24-hour period.

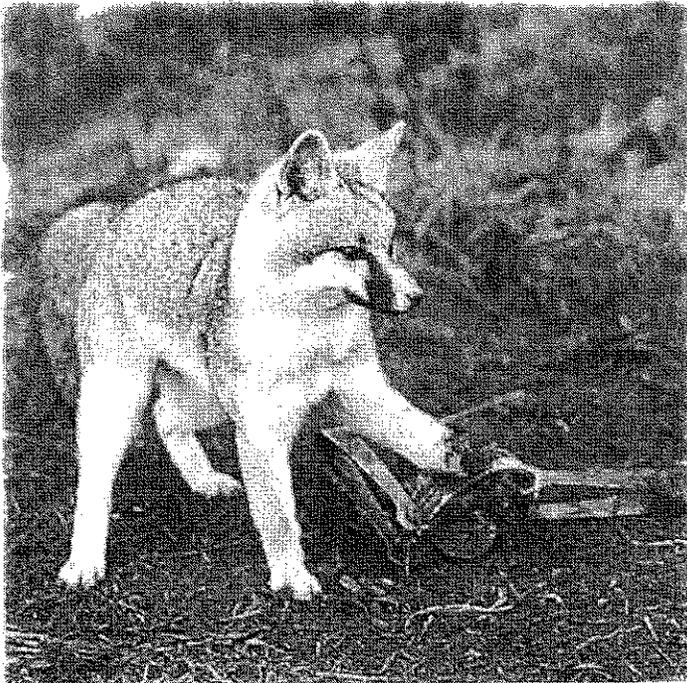
TRAP DEFINITIONS

Padded Metal Trap: A legal padded metal trap has all of the following features or characteristics:

1. Spring strength not exceeding 55 inch pounds with arms closed and 85 inch pounds with arms in the open position;
2. A gap between the arms of the trap in the closed position no less than 1/4 inch in width and no less than 4 inches in length;
3. Replaceable non-weather hardening, non-age hardening padding material not less than 3/32 inch thick covering the closing surfaces and securely affixed to the arms of the trap;
4. A chain no longer than 6 inches in length;
5. Swivels located at each end of the chain, and;
6. A shock absorbing spring incorporated into the anchoring chain.

Species Specific Trap: A legal species specific trap has all of the following features or characteristics:

1. Triggering and restraining mechanisms enclosed by a housing;
2. When set, triggering and restraining mechanism accessible only via a single opening;
3. An access opening measuring not greater than 2 inches in diameter or diagonally;
4. A triggering mechanism that can only be activated by a pulling force;
5. A swivel-mounted anchoring mechanism.





CONNECTICUT TRAPPING CASE REPORT SUMMARY

	leghold traps	injuries	conibear traps	injuries	total
dogs	5	broken bones - 3 limb amputated - 2 euthanized - 1	0	n/a	5
cats	18	broken bones - 4 limb amputated - 6 chewed off leg - 1 euthanized - 2	5	broken bones - 3 missing toes - 1 died in trap - 1	23
total	23		5		28

as of 11/18/98



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Model Bill to Ban Body-Gripping Traps

Chapter 453 of 1996. AN ACT: THE MASSACHUSETTS WILDLIFE PROTECTION ACT.

Be it enacted by the People, and by their authority:

SECTION 1: In order to protect people, domestic animals, and wildlife from the dangers of cruel traps and to facilitate the release of non-targeted animals, the existing language of MASS. GEN. LAWS ch. 131, § 80A, shall be deleted and replaced with the following provisions:

§ 80A. Use of Leghold Traps and Certain Other Devices Restricted. Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, a person shall not use, set, place, maintain, manufacture or possess any trap for the purpose of capturing fur-bearing mammals, except for common type mouse and rat traps, nets, and box or cage type traps, as otherwise permitted by law. A box or cage type trap is one that confines the whole animal without grasping any part of the animal, including Hancock or Bailey's type live traps for beavers. Other than nets and common type mouse or rat traps, traps designed to capture and hold a fur-bearing mammal by gripping the mammal's body or body part are prohibited including steel jaw leghold traps, padded leghold traps, conibear traps, and snares.

The above provision shall not apply to the use of prohibited devices by federal and state departments of health for the purpose of protection from threats to human health and safety.

A person or his duly authorized agent may apply to the director for a special permit to use otherwise prohibited traps on property owned by such person. Issuance of such special permits shall be governed by rules and regulations adopted by the director pursuant to chapter thirty A. Such rules and regulations shall include, but not be limited to provisions relative to the following:

The applicant shall apply to the director in writing and shall state that there exists on the property an animal problem which cannot reasonably be abated by the use of traps other than those prohibited by this section, and that he or she has attempted to abate the problem using traps permitted under this section. If the director determines that the applicant has attempted to abate the problem using permissible traps, that the applicant has complied with § 37 and § 80 of this chapter, if required to do so, and any other laws regarding trapping, and that such an animal problem exists which cannot reasonably be abated by the use of alternative, non-lethal management techniques or of traps other than those prohibited by this section, the director may authorize the use, setting, placing or maintenance of such traps, not including leghold traps, for a period not exceeding thirty days during which time the applicant shall remain in compliance with the procedures for obtaining a special permit as set forth in regulations adopted pursuant to this section.

Whoever violates any provisions of this section, or any rule or regulation made under the authority thereof, shall be punished by a fine of not less than three hundred nor more than one thousand dollars, or by imprisonment for not more than six months, or by both such fine and imprisonment for each trap possessed, used, set, placed, maintained, or manufactured. Each day of violation shall constitute a separate offense. A person found guilty of, or convicted of, or assessed in any manner after a plea of nolo contendere, or penalized for, a second violation of this section shall surrender to an officer authorized to enforce this chapter any trapping license and/or problem animal control permit issued to him or her and shall be barred forever from obtaining a trapping license and a problem animal control permit.

MODEL LEGISLATION

AN ACT TO PROHIBIT THE MANUFACTURE, TRANSPORTATION SALE, POSSESSION AND USE OF THE STEEL-JAW AND PADDED STEEL-JAW LEGHOLD TRAPS

Be it enacted by the Senate and General Assembly of
the State of _____:

1. No person shall manufacture, sell, offer for sale, possess, import or transport an animal trap of the steel-jaw or padded steel-jaw leghold types.

2. No person shall take or attempt to take any animal by means of a trap of the steel-jaw or padded steel-jaw leghold type.

3. The possession of a trap of the steel-jaw or padded steel-jaw leghold type shall be prima facie evidence of a violation of section 2 of this act except under the circumstances indicated by section 5 of this act.

4. Mouse and rat traps designed for use in or under buildings shall not be classified as steel-jaw or padded steel-jaw leghold traps for the purpose of this act.

5. This act shall not be construed to prevent the use of steel-jaw or padded steel-jaw leghold traps for the purpose of exhibition by humane or educational institutions and organizations, or the possession of such traps by a person in the act of turning over the traps to a law enforcement agency.

6. A person violating this act shall for each trap involved be fined not less than \$50.00 nor more than \$250.00 for a first offense; not less than \$250.00 nor more than \$500.00 for a second offense; not less than \$500.00 nor more than \$2,500.00 or imprisonment for six months, or both fine and imprisonment for a third and each subsequent offense.

7. All equipment used in, or animals and pelts obtained by a violation of section 2 of this act shall be confiscated by any law enforcement agency enforcing the act. This bill shall not be construed to authorize the confiscation of animals or pelts other than those which have been obtained by a trap or in the possession of a violator.

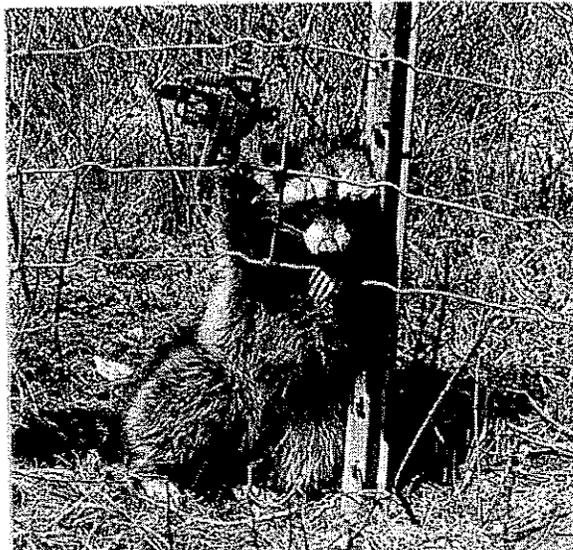
This act shall take effect 60 days following its enactment.

STATEMENT

This bill prohibits the manufacture, transportation, sale, possession and use of the steel-jaw and padded steel-jaw leghold trap throughout the State. It repeals a section of the law which permits certain individuals to use these types of animal traps within particular areas. Penalties for each violation are as follows: \$50.00 to \$250.00 for a first offense, \$250.00 to \$500.00 for a second offense and \$500.00 to \$2,500.00 or a six month imprisonment, or both, for each additional offense. The bill provides for the confiscation of illegal traps and any animals or pelts caught with them. Educational and humane organizations may possess traps for exhibition purposes only.

Source: Friends of Animals
"The Case Against
Leghold Traps"

"Few men could endure to watch for five minutes an animal struggling in a trap with a crushed and torn limb . . . I know of no sight more sorrowful than that of these unoffending creatures . . . as they are seen in the torture grip of these traps. They sit drawn up into a little heap, as if collecting all their force of endurance to support the agony; some sit in a half torpid state induced by intense suffering. Most young ones are found dead after some hours of it, but others as you start up struggle violently to escape, and shriek pitiably, from terror and the pangs occasioned by their struggles It is scarcely possible to exaggerate the suffering thus endured from fear, from acute pain, maddened by thirst, and by vain attempts to escape



"Some who reflect on this subject for the first time will wonder how such cruelty can have been permitted in this age of civilization; and no doubt if men of education saw with their own eyes what takes place under their sanction, the system would have put an end to it long ago."

-- CHARLES DARWIN

Gardeners' Chronicle and Agricultural Gazette, 1863



HARP®

Humane Alternatives for Resolving Problems
Win-Win Solutions to Environmental Challenges

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WHAT IS HARP?

Humane Alternatives for Resolving Problems – HARP®

- A tax-exempt (501(c)(3)) nonprofit corporation
- A CLEARINGHOUSE for win-win solutions to a range of environmental problems involving:
 - Wildlife
 - Pets
 - Conservation
 - Public Health
 - Air and Water Quality

HARP PROMOTES:

- Humane Problem-solving
- Open Space/Conservation
- Habitat Protection
- Wetlands Preservation
- Alternatives to Pesticides
- Responsible, Compassionate Treatment of All Animals and the Environment

HARP offers research, analysis and report-writing on a variety of issues related to the environment and conservation.