

FOOTHOLD TRAPS AND TRAPPING

1. Foothold traps used during the regulated trapping seasons will be anchored in some fashion.
2. If in water, a foothold trap may be staked to the bottom or to a stake visible above water, and relatively close to shore or structure.
3. On dry land, a foothold trap may be attached to a drag or staked to the ground. There may be an animal attractor (small amount of bait or lure) associated with the trap site.
4. Removing the foothold trap from the anchor will do nothing to release the dog's foot from the trap. Focus your attention on identifying the type of trap and how to compress the spring(s).
5. Injuries from foothold traps are rare. The potential for injury increases with time spent caught.
6. Be responsible and pay attention to your dog. If caught, take action immediately. Once removed, massage the captured foot to relieve any tenderness.
7. Many foothold traps used during the regulated trapping seasons are the same as those used in research where animals are commonly caught and released. A foothold trap is designed to humanely hold an animal, not injure it.
8. Leave the foothold trap at the site – do not take it with you. Emotion may be high, but there is no legal justification for theft or destruction of property.
9. Share this knowledge with others.

KNOW THE LANDSCAPE!

In North Dakota, regulated use of foothold traps occurs from October through April. Limited use occurs during late spring and summer by landowners or their agents removing nuisance wild animals. Obtaining permission to go on private property and visiting with landowners will help identify other activities occurring on the same property. Sharing this knowledge will reduce the potential for problems.

Trapping in North Dakota, which includes using foothold traps, is an important component of furbearer management. Foothold traps you may encounter in or near water are intended to capture muskrat, beaver, and mink; and afield may be fisher, raccoon, skunk, fox, coyote, badger, or bobcat.

Trapping in North Dakota is highly regulated; enforced by game wardens; based on sound science; and backed by continued research. The NDGFD and NDFHTA review all reported trap incidents to assure continual success with regulated furbearer harvest and other resource users.

Individuals who want to learn more about trapping in North Dakota have that opportunity by attending a fur harvester education course. Information about upcoming courses and locations are posted on the website or can be obtained by contacting the NDGFD or NDFHTA.

This brochure is the product of the North Dakota Cooperative Fur Harvester Education Program (NDCFHEP).



FOOTHOLD TRAPS

IDENTIFICATION, USE & REMOVING A DOG

There are methods to release a dog if caught in a foothold trap.

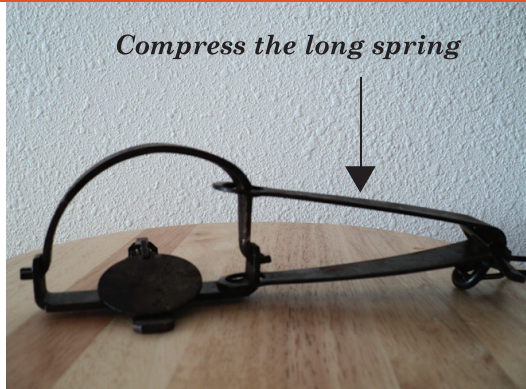


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SINGLE LONG-SPRING FOOTHOLD TRAP



1. Maintain control of the dog;

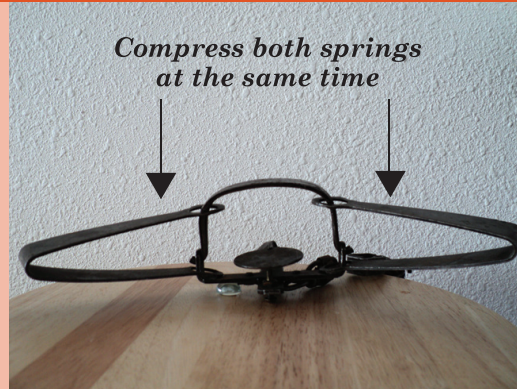


2. Compress the single long spring to relieve pressure to trap jaws. Use your feet if needed.



3. Release the dog's foot from between the jaws

DOUBLE LONG-SPRING FOOTHOLD TRAP



1. Maintain control of the dog;

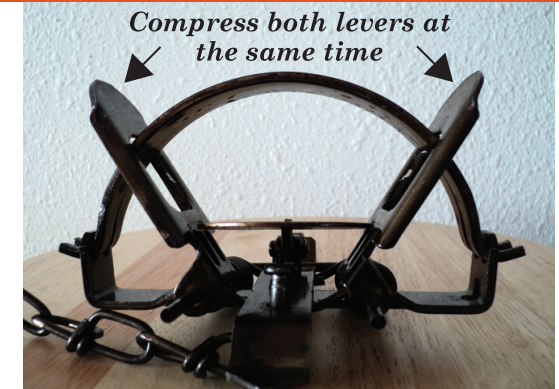


2. Compress both long springs at the same time to relieve pressure to trap jaws. Use your feet if needed.



3. Release the dog's foot from between the jaws

COIL SPRING FOOTHOLD TRAP



1. Maintain control of the dog;



2. Compress both coil spring levers at the same time to relieve pressure to trap jaws. Use your feet if needed.



3. Release the dog's foot from between the jaws