



HOW TO BAIT AN ANIMAL TRAP



One of the most important steps in the live animal trapping process is baiting your trap. Baiting your live animal trap serves two purposes: luring your animal into the trap, and encouraging it to engage the trigger. Learn how to bait a live animal cage trap by following the below steps from Havahart®.

1. SELECT A BAIT

In order to lure your animal into the trap, you must select an attractive bait. The best bait to use varies with each target animal, so do research on your particular nuisance animal. If you aren't sure exactly what kind of animal you want to trap, try a bait that attracts most animals, such as peanut butter.

2. CAREFULLY POSITION THE BAIT

While selecting the right bait will help attract your animal to the trap, only careful positioning of the bait will lead to a successful capture. Proper bait placement will force the animal to fully enter the trap to reach it and encourage them to engage the trigger plate.

TIP: Wear gloves when placing the bait and handling the trap to avoid transferring your scent.

BAIT SUGGESTIONS FOR COMMON

----- TRAP ANIMALS -----

- **Raccoon:** Marshmallows
- **Rabbits:** Cabbage
- **Squirrels / Chipmunks:** Peanuts
- **Skunks / Opossums:** Canned fish

3. FORCE INTERACTION

An animal may be more likely to engage the trigger if you make the animal work for the bait. Spread peanut butter directly onto the plate and place additional bait in the sticky substance for the animal to dig out.

4. CREATE A BAIT TRAIL

Make your trap even more enticing by creating a trail of bait leading to the entrance. A bait trail will not only guide your animal to the cage but will give it a taste of the bait inside, motivating it to enter.

TIP: Identify an animal's home (i.e. a nest, burrow, tree, brush pile or structure) and place bait directly next to it. Then create a bait trail leading from this area to your trap, which should be positioned only a few feet away.



5. INTRODUCE YOUR TRAP

Use bait to help your animal become comfortable with the trap before you set it up for a catch. Bait your trap, then tie or prop the door(s) open so that the trap cannot be triggered closed. Once you notice the bait inside the trap has been eaten, remove the ties so that the next time your animal enters, the doors will close.

EXPERT BAITING TIPS

- ✓ Select a bait that is larger than the trap openings to prevent animals from stealing bait from outside the trap.
- ✓ Prevent an animal from knocking the trap over and stealing the bait by placing a brick or weight on top to keep it anchored down.
- ✓ Make sure that your bait does not get in the way of the trap's trigger mechanism; the area below the trigger pan should be clear of food and