



HOW TO RELEASE AN ANIMAL FROM A TRAP



When you find an animal trapped in your cage, you may breathe a sigh of relief that the worst is behind you, but then you realize that your job is far from over. You now have to remove it in a responsible and legally accepted manner. Check out these helpful tips from Havahart® to ensure a successful release.

1. FOLLOW LOCAL REGULATIONS

Don't wait until you've trapped an animal to figure out what to do with it. Before you set out a trap, contact your local game commission or read up on local trap laws to prepare. You should know where the species you are trapping can be released, as well as whether it is protected and in need of special handling. If local laws permit, release the animal at least 5 miles away to prevent it from returning.

2. APPROACH THE TRAP CAREFULLY

Any animal that finds itself caught in a trap will likely go into a panic and can easily injure itself trying to escape. It is up to you to calm it down by approaching slowly, taking soft steps and speaking in a soothing tone.

3. COVER THE TRAP

Placing a blanket over the cage will help to quiet most animals and make them feel safer during the stressful situation. If you happen to have a skunk in the cage, you will definitely want to hold up a large sheet or blanket as you approach in order to protect yourself from being sprayed. Be ready to move as soon as your animal is calm; you don't want its thrashing around to force you to drop it, possibly knocking the trap open in the process.

4. WEAR GLOVES

When transporting and opening the trap, be sure to wear heavy-duty gloves and hold the trap away from your body. This will protect you from contact with the animal in case it is able to stick part of its body through the trap's bars.

THE IMPORTANCE OF GLOVES

Gloves are important throughout all stages of trapping. They protect you from contact with an animal, but also prevent you from transferring your scent onto the cage - which could make animals suspicious of it.

5. OPEN THE TRAP WITH CAUTION

You may dread releasing your trapped animal for fear of being attacked. Fortunately, an animal's instincts will drive it to seek cover and safety once released. Unfortunately, the animal may feel that the safest place for it in this new environment may be the cage it is in.

It may take some time before it gets brave enough to find a more suitable hideaway. Remove the blanket if necessary, so that it loses confidence in its current enclosure and will want to find a more secure one. Try backing away to help bolster its courage.

6. DISINFECT THE CAGE

When you return home, use rubber gloves to disinfect the cage with a solution that is 1 part bleach, 9 parts water. Wait 20 minutes before wiping down the trap. This will remove your scent and any germs the previous occupant may have left behind, leaving it ready for reuse in case your pest problem persists.