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Homemade Traps and Snares

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Introduction

This page aims to deal with easily made animal traps that are simple to make out of readily available materials. All photos and pictures are original to this page and all traps and methods work well. Most likely some of these traps will be illegal in your area and proper research should be done regarding the laws before you attempt to fabricate your own trap.

~~ Lowry

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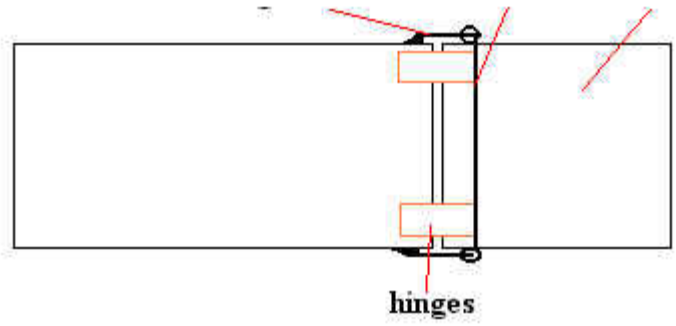
1 - Box Traps

Box traps are a relatively easy design that are easy to set up and if triggered are nearly 100% reliable. These traps can be made to any size for any animal that will take bait. The disadvantage is that some wild animals are very hesitant to walk into a cage, also box traps need to be heavily constructed therefor can be quite expensive.

Parts Needed for the basic box and locking rod -
NOTE - these parts will make a fox sized trap, upsize or downsize for other game.
4 - pieces 1"x2" welded steel mesh cut to 120 x 55cm
2 - pieces 1"x2" welded steel mesh cut to 55 x 55cm
10 - lengths 3 x 25mm angle steel cut to 55cm
2 - lengths 3 x 25mm angle steel cut to 52.5cm
4 - lengths 3 x 25mm angle steel cut to 120cm
2 - 25" pieces of 8mm steel rod
1 - 20" piece of 8mm steel rod
2 - hinges
tie wire



To construct the basic cage, first you must decide how strong the cage will have to be. If you intent to catch anything larger than a cat i would suggest using a full frame of angle steel. The above diagram uses square tube steel to only reinforce the opening and the swinging door.
Start by tieing the box together, this is easily done by using nylon cable ties join the 4 large pieces of steel mesh together then tie on one end, again with cable ties, it should be rigid enough to hold its shape enough to fabricate the rest of the trap.
Now take 2 pieces of 14" square tube steel and 2 13" pieces. weld (or bracket) these tubes together to form a perfect square. do the same with the other pieces of square tube, so you have two identical squares. One is welded to the inside of the opening to the cage and the other is used to reinforce the edge of the door by welding the mesh to one side of the square.
The door can now be hinged to the opening with small hinges available at any hardware store.

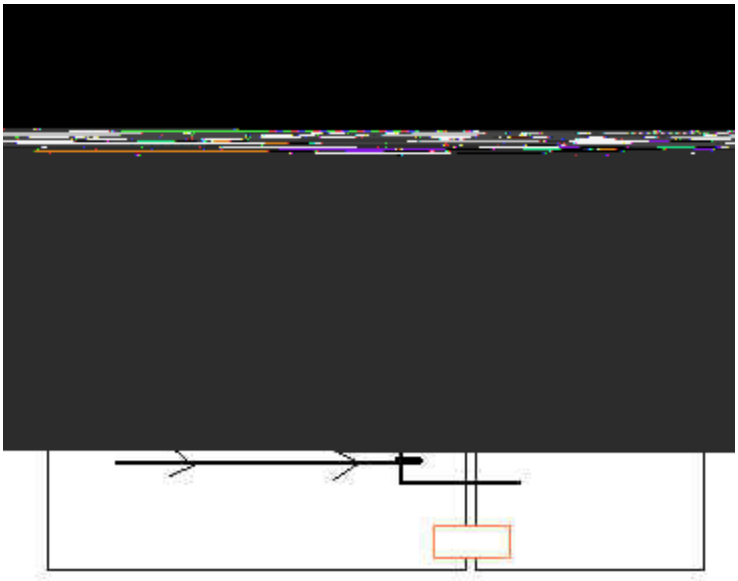
All thats left to do is make a locking rod that will slide down and lock the box when the trap is triggered. Look at the diagram above, The two "guide rods" hold the "locking rod" in position, when the trap is triggered the locking rod slides down the guide rods and locks to door shut behind the animal.

Finish the basic box by tieing the wire mesh (or welding it) together with tie wire making sure there are no gaps and it is strongly constructed as wild animals go crazy when trapped..

Triggers

Theres a large variety of triggers for these traps, they all do pretty much the same thing and are mostly variations on the same few types.

Sliding wire release - This design is used on many of the commercially available box traps, theres good reason for this as it is one of the best, this design works best for the smaller traps as the heavy gauge wire needed for the larger ones is hard to bend without the right machines. Also the heavy doors of the large traps decrease sensitivity with this design.
Look at the diagram to the right. The black lines are heavy gauge steel rod suspended to the top of the cage with wire loops, a square of the same wire is welded to the top of the door as shown to catch around the bait rod.
The trap is triggered when the animal takes the bait, which slides the wire back releasing the door.



string loop release - This trigger is simple to make and very sens
It is also very easy to make work with any sized trap. A major pro
is actually setting it, in its basic form it takes two people, one to g
the wire through the hole and the other to loop the string over the
protruding wire.
Look at the diagram to the left, To set the trap a string is tied to th
door, the string then runs over the centre back of the trap and a lo
the string is placed over the bit of protruding wire, as the bait pole
pulled, the hinge bends sliding the wire out of the hole letting go
wire.

Baited whip snares - the classic whip snares use a bent down sappling to whip the animal into the air out of reach of predators and away from the ground so it cant pull itself free. This baited snare is activated when the animal attempts to take the bait, this pulls the bait rod off the toggle which releases the tension from a pulled down sapling, the cats foot is caught in the string noose & is pulled into the air. Be sure to use a good strong sappling that has ben stripped of all leaves/branches, these will create drag and slow the trap down.

Bird foot snare - This snare is made to trap the birds feet as it perches on the stake to take the bait. The nooses are made out of fine fishing line which is threaded through the stake and tied to a rod that runs beneath. nails are hammered along the sides of the horizontal stake to hold the bait.

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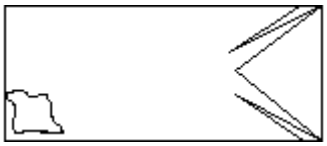
4 - Restricted Exit Traps

restricted exit traps use an opening that is easy to pass through one way but not pass back through.



baited tin trap - useful for soft skinned animals that rely on their nose and not vision, the prime target of traps like this is the water rat *(now protected in all states of Australia)*, where the trap can be hidden under water where the animal wont see that there is no exit.
To make this trap take a tin can slightly larger than the target animal and cut a cross in the sealed end, bend the 4 flaps into the trap. unscrew the other end and tie some meat to the lid and screw back on. when the animal located the meat they attempt to get it out but the 4 sharp bits of tin dig in and wont let it out, the animal soon drowns.