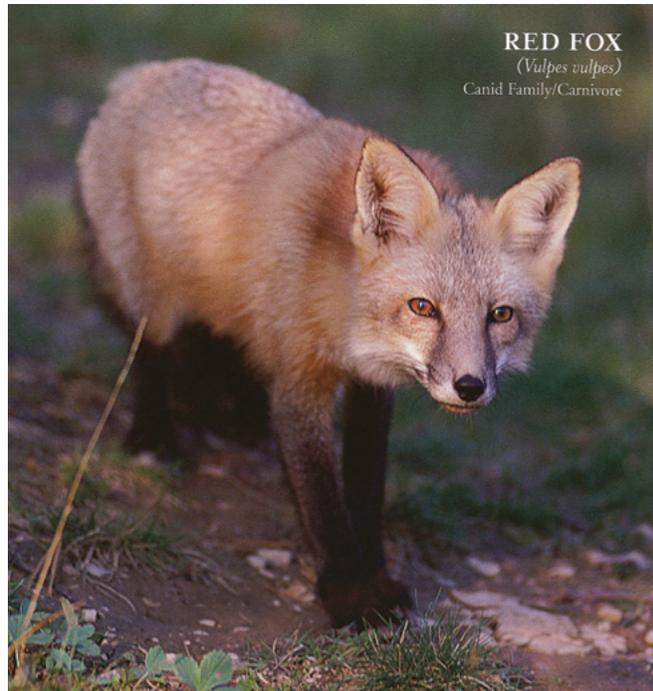


**COYOTE**  
(*Canis latrans*)  
Canid Family/Carnivore



**RED FOX**  
(*Vulpes vulpes*)  
Canid Family/Carnivore



### TRAPPERS PROTECT PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY

Regulated trapping by licensed trappers is, and always has been recognized as necessary by wildlife biologists, provincial governments and many Canadian municipalities:

- to reduce threatening human-wildlife conflicts;
- for the prevention or elimination of disease;
- to control over-population of wildlife and invasive species;
- to minimize both private and public property damage;
- to undertake scientific research;
- for species conservation.

### TRAPPERS ARE QUALIFIED PROFESSIONALS

A person is required to take a lengthy Trapper Education Course prior to obtaining a trapping license.

### IS IT TRUE THAT ANIMALS OFTEN CHEW OFF THEIR LEGS TO ESCAPE TRAPS?

- Rarely will an animal attempt to injure itself in a cage trap or restraining foot hold trap. This only occurs in very rare situations where a trap has been used irresponsibly or illegally.
- The use of modern soft-catch (padded) traps or encapsulated (enclosed) foot-hold traps together with mandatory trap line inspections virtually eliminates this possibility today.

### WHAT ABOUT THE COST TO MUNICIPALITIES AND TAXPAYERS?

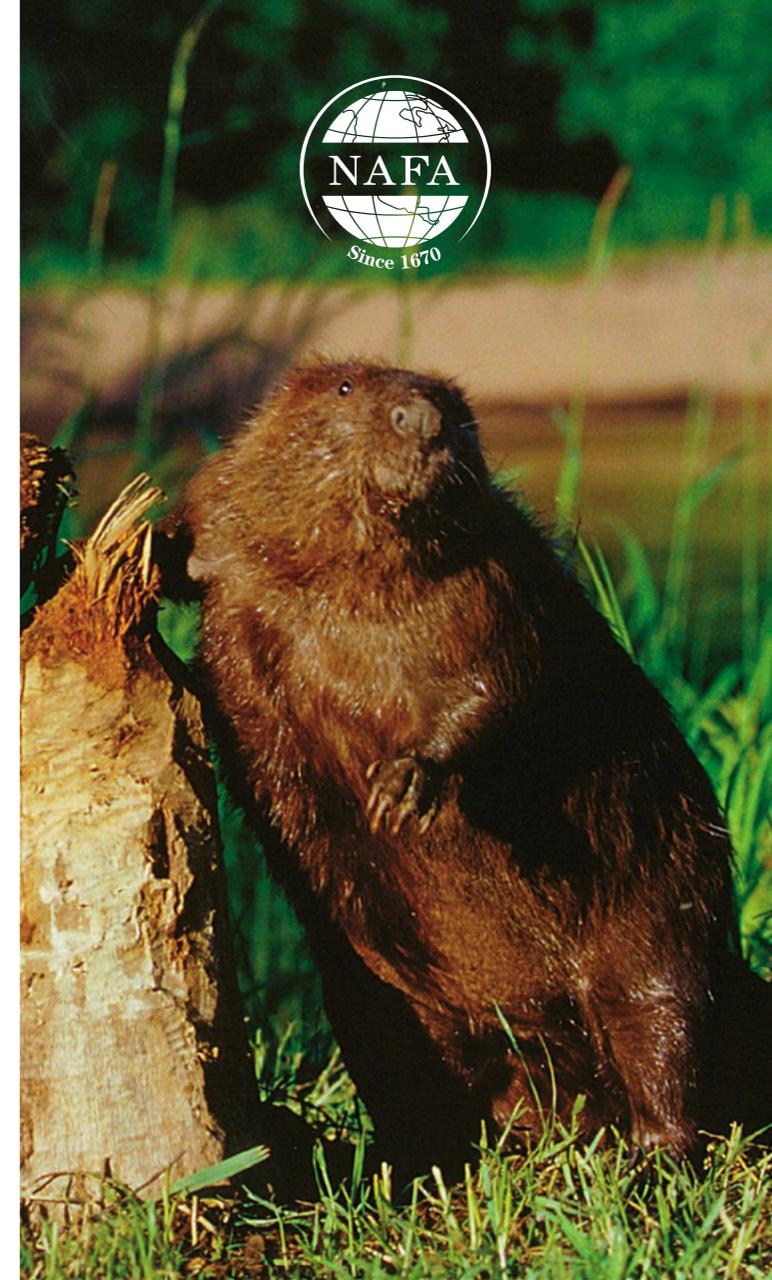
- Regulated trapping is cost effective.
- Trapping saves taxpayer costs.
- Fur animals cause significant costs annually in flood damage and livestock killing, and pose a risk to public health and safety. Taxpayers ultimately pay for such costs.
- Trapping is one wildlife management option used to prevent or to stop such damage at little or no cost to taxpayers.

### WHAT ARE THE PROBLEMS WITH TRAPPING IN URBAN AREAS?

- Each jurisdiction is responsible for wildlife management, including pest control.
- The use of traps in high traffic areas increases the risk to free running pets.
- Human interference - traps and or captured animals can be illegally moved. Lack of municipal or provincial inspections can mean some illegal traps are set by property owners or unlicensed trappers.

### HAVEN'T OTHER COUNTRIES BANNED TRAPPING FOR FUR?

- While several European countries no longer permit trapping animals for their fur, trapping for other purposes still occurs. For example, European countries collectively trap five times more wild fur animals, such as muskrats, coypu, fox and others for 'nuisance' or 'pest' control than Canadian trappers do for fur. Unfortunately, these laws mean animals are not allowed to be used and are disposed of as waste.



# TRAPPING

## PROBLEM COYOTES AND OTHER PREDATORS POSE PROBLEMS ACROSS CANADA

- A 400-pound bear was shot by police in May 2012 after it was found in a Toronto area public park.
- An 8 year old girl was bitten by a coyote while playing in an Oakville backyard in February 2012.
- A dog was mauled to death by a coyote in front of its owner at a Calgary golf course.
- A coyote lunged at a Halifax-area man, tearing the sleeve on his jacket outside a house in 2011.
- In October 2009, a young woman was fatally attacked by three coyotes in Nova Scotia Cape Breton Highlands National Park, the second only death by coyotes recorded in North America.

Wildlife species can carry diseases that can be transmitted to people through pets or animal droppings. These diseases includes rabies, canine heartworm, distemper and parasites such as mange, ticks and raccoon round worm.

## WHY DO WE NEED TO CONTROL URBAN WILDLIFE?

Animals are quick to adapt to urban or semi-urban settings where they can easily multiply. Too many animals in an area can cause problems. Reducing wildlife populations helps reduce the damage they cause through flooding, livestock and pet killing, and public health risks such as rabies or giardiasis. Human-wildlife conflicts range from nuisance issues to health and safety issues. Prevention is the first line of defense. There is a wide range of information and products available to the public to help minimize human-wildlife conflicts. Prevention is only a part of the solution. Further measures may be necessary in the case of human safety risks (rabies, coyote attacks), habitat destruction (beaver damage) or endangerment to other wildlife.

## WHY USE TRAPS?

A variety of options currently exist for dealing with problem wildlife. These include poisons, noise and light deterrents, altering habitats, introducing predators, or capturing. Capturing (trapping) problem animals is usually the most effective, ethical and sustainable option. There are different types of traps but not all are useful in all circumstances. Many municipalities that have trapping by-laws make exceptions for farmers, homeowners, and licenced trappers.

## ARE ALL TRAPS THE SAME?

There are three categories of traps which are approved for capturing specific species, or for use in different settings or for different purposes.

1. Modified restraining traps (such as the padded soft-catch, limb restraining snare, or laminated foot-hold traps) hold an animal without causing undue injury.
2. Quick killing traps, such as the conibear trap, are designed to render a rapid death to the target animal.
3. Box or cage traps are used for capturing wildlife in urban/suburban areas where there may be a risk of capturing curious unleashed pets.

## WHY USE RESTRAINING TRAPS?

Different types of traps are best suited for different types of animals. Cage traps have limited use. They are not useful for capturing every type of urban wildlife (coyotes, wolves, and bears) or in all situations (rabid or excitable animals). Net traps are not discriminatory and may cause injuries or result in death of struggling captured animals. Restraining traps, also called limb-holding/foot-holding traps, are specially designed and set for capturing terrestrial species such as coyote and raccoon and they comply with the welfare requirements of the Agreement on International Humane Trapping Standards (AIHTS).

## WHY USE KILLING TRAPS?

Quick killing traps, such as the conibear trap, are designed to render a quick death to the target animal. Ethically, these traps are used because the captured animal dies rapidly. Quick killing traps and trapping methods can often replace the conventional foot hold traps introduced to Canada by the Europeans. Today, fewer than 3% of the 1 million wild furbearers captured each year are taken in such restraining traps set on land.

## HOW DO WE KNOW TRAPPING IS AN ETHICAL METHOD OF CAPTURING ANIMALS?

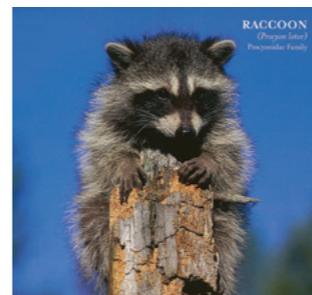
As the Canadian Federation of Humane Societies notes: *“The traps used in the fur industry have evolved over time to include more sophisticated and usually more humane traps for furbearing animals, and recently meet international humane trapping standards.”* Old style foot hold traps are being replaced with the padded and laminated jaw, AIHTS certified devices. The addition of swivels now provides more freedom of movement for captured animals. They are also effective for trapping certain animals that are being captured for research or reintroduction programs. Provincial and territorial regulations require that traps become welfare certified. In most of Canada it is a requirement that licensed trappers check restraining traps at least daily. Violation of provincial/territorial ethical trapping regulations is subject to fines and penalties.

## HOW DO TRAPPERS PREVENT OR MINIMIZE HARM TO CAUGHT ANIMALS?

Today’s holding traps have evolved from the more familiar, conventional, steel jawed leg hold traps of the past. In 2001, all provinces and territories prohibited the use on land of all jaw-type leg hold restraining traps for 15 furbearer species and modified limb restraining traps for coyote, lynx, wolf and raccoon must meet the AIHTS welfare requirements. Newly designed welfare certified, traps virtually eliminate limb damage to the target species. Soft padded foot hold traps, encapsulating traps with special swivels now in use are designed and tested to meet the international humane trapping standards. Quick kill traps must meet prescribed species-specific welfare limits, to produce rapid onset of unconsciousness and insensibility of animals. These limits have been determined by scientific research to provide a humane death for the species they are designed for by the AIHTS process supported by the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association.

## WHY NOT JUST RELOCATE UNWANTED WILDLIFE?

- Although relocation has been successful for some species such as bear and elk, it is relatively ineffective for other species. Often, animals will simply try to return to their original locations.
- Animals that have been successfully relocated may end up disrupting their new ecosystem or causing many of the same problems as before.
- Relocation may result in death for introduced animals due to stress, starvation, hostile encounters with resident member species.
- Relocating animals increases the risk of spreading diseases such as rabies, mange, distemper.
- The Canadian Federation of Humane Societies, the World Wildlife Fund, and most major animal protection and conservation organizations agree that relocation is not always the best course of action.
- Many jurisdictions now limit or prohibit the relocation of wildlife unless for special purposes such as well supervised conservation work with threatened and endangered species.



## HOW DO TRAPPERS AVOID CAPTURING UNINTENDED ANIMALS?

- Animal species vary in size and behaviours, so there is not one specific type of trap or trapping method which works for all species in all settings.
- Most restraining and rapid kill traps are species specific, meaning they are designed and placed in such a way as to capture an animal of a particular species or one of a similar species.
- How a trap is set and located is determined by species-based animal behaviour. This reduces the likelihood of accidental capture of non-target animals.
- Non-target animals caught in modern foothold and cage traps can usually be released unharmed in the rare instance one is captured.
- Licensed trappers are kept up-to-date on the newest technologies and best ways to capture target species. These methods are explained in detail in trapper education materials and workshops

## HOW ARE PUBLIC SAFETY HAZARDS MINIMIZED?

- Harm to the public caused by traps is an infrequent occurrence and generally associated with illegal trapping practices or risky human behaviour.
- Wildlife trapping is governed by provincial/territorial regulations.
- Minimum set-back requirements for placement of traps on public lands are included in provincial/territorial regulations. Some public spaces post signage when urban trapping is occurring.
- Box or cage traps are mainly used for capturing wildlife in urban/suburban areas where there may be a risk of capturing curious unleashed pets. They are effective for capturing certain smaller animals, but can also be less selective than restraining foot hold traps.
- Use of qualified licensed trappers ensures traps are used safely and in accordance with rules and regulations. Violation of provincial/territorial trapping regulations is subject to fines and penalties

## ARE THERE TRAPPING STANDARDS IN CANADA?

- Wildlife trapping is governed by municipal and provincial/territorial regulations which incorporate rules on safe use of trapping devices including placement on public lands. Canada is a signatory to the 1997 Agreement on International Humane Trapping Standards (AIHTS) which requires certification of traps based on scientific results of trap testing.
- Traps are being tested and certified in a scheduled manner. A list of certified traps is updated regularly.