

Getting Started in Trapping

Some General Tips

- ✂ All trappers must possess a valid trapping license issued by DIFW annually.
- ✂ First time trappers must pass an accredited trapper education course.
- ✂ Contact DIFW for scheduled trapper ed courses (207-287-8000).
- ✂ Coyotes may be trapped during the early canine and regular trapping seasons. Refer to law summary.
- ✂ When not on land you own, you must obtain written landowner permission to trap in organized towns.
- ✂ Foothold traps are the most effective legal coyote traps.
- ✂ There are restrictions on size of foothold traps in WMDs where lynx occur.
- ✂ Snares of any description are not legal for coyote trapping in Maine.
- ✂ Tagging along with an experienced trapper is beneficial for first-time coyote trappers.
- ✂ Joining the Maine Trapper's Association (MTA) is a great way to support trapping, and meet experienced trappers.
- ✂ Attending MTA trapping rendezvous and joining a local trapping club are also great ways to learn the ropes.
- ✂ Coyote trapping is challenging, as they are naturally wary. But they definitely can be caught.
- ✂ Proper traps, equipment, baits and lures are important.
- ✂ Set location and the ability to read sign are crucial to success. Take the time to thoroughly scout your area.
- ✂ Many books, magazines, and DVDs are available on coyote trapping techniques.
- ✂ Learn proper fur handling to maximize the value of your catch.
- ✂ Coyotes that are to be sold, transferred to others, or used for taxidermy must be tagged in Maine.
- ✂ DIFW wardens, some biologists, and some stores and shops are available to tag fur.
- ✂ Find out who buys fur in your area. There are also MTA- sponsored fur auctions around the state.
- ✂ Don't get discouraged. The first coyote may seem difficult, but after that catches will come easier.
- ✂ A coyote's highly developed senses and wariness can be used against it.

Basic Trapping Gear

- ✂ Properly treated (odorless and rust-protected) foothold traps, usually 5 ¼ to 6" jaw spread, unless in lynx areas (see law summary).
- ✂ Anchoring system (stakes, earth anchors, or drags).
- ✂ Gloves to wear while making sets (canvas, leather, cloth, or rubber).
- ✂ Pliers and screwdriver (for emergency pan tension adjustment, repairs).
- ✂ Pan cover or under-pan material (to prevent dirt from getting under pan).
- ✂ Digging tool (usually a trapping trowel).
- ✂ Hammer w/tongue or hatchet (to hack out trap bed, and drive stakes).
- ✂ Sifter (for final dirt covering of sets).
- ✂ Attractants (baits, lures, urine).
- ✂ Canvas bag or 5-gal bucket to carry equipment.
- ✂ Positive attitude (coyotes can be caught!)

Prepared by: Bob Noonan and Gerry Lavigne
September 26, 2012