

HOW TO RELEASE A DOMESTIC ANIMAL FROM A BODY GRIPPING (RACCOON) TRAP

Although an uncommon occurrence domestic animals have at times been accidentally caught in body gripping traps set for raccoons and other similar sized fur animals. Sadly in most cases, the reason that animals were ultimately lost was due primarily to a lack of familiarity with these devices by the person attempting to free the animal. This handout is an attempt to educate the outdoor enthusiast in the proper method of releasing an accidentally caught animal.

Do not attempt to pry the jaws apart as the springs will prevent the trap from being forcefully opened in this manner in most cases.

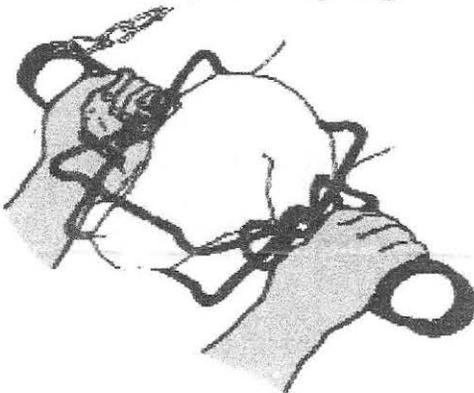
If a domestic animal is accidentally captured in a body gripping trap- don't panic. The animal can be simply and safely released in a very short period of time if you follow these simple steps and make a mental commitment to think and act rationally.

Step One: Remain Calm and speak soothingly to the animal.

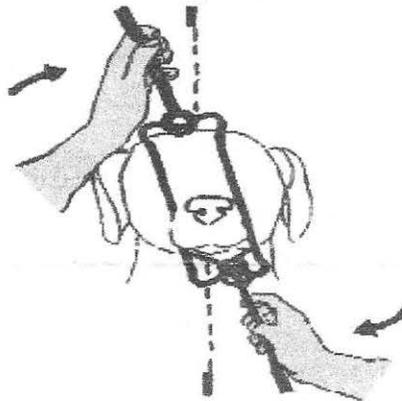
This will help reassure the animal and make your job easier.

Step Two: Taking a spring in each hand squeeze the springs and twist the trap so the trap jaws are not placing pressure on the animal's windpipe.

Squeeze Springs



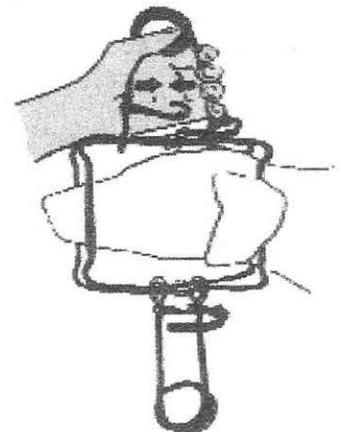
90 degree twist



This virtually eliminates the chances of the animal being lost and allows a considerable amount of time to completely release the animal. The animal can now breathe freely which helps to calm both the animal and the aide.

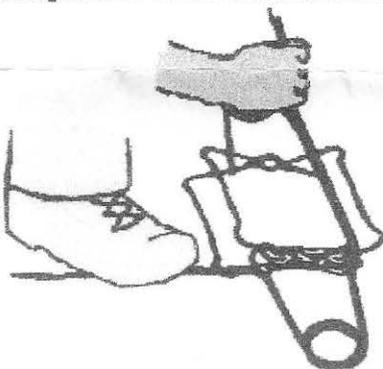
Step Three: Squeeze together one of the springs using both hands if necessary until you're able to fasten the safety lock over the arms of the spring.

Step Four: Repeat the same process for the other spring. Slide the animal's head out of the trap



Lock Springs by Hand

Rope Method Alternative



If you cannot squeeze the springs of the trap by hand; a piece of rope, your belt or a dog leash can help gain the necessary leverage.

Step One: Thread the rope through the large rings of one spring where the spring meets the rotating jaws of the trap

Step Two: Bring rope around and thread it back through the initial ring far enough to provide a "handle" to grip

Step Three: Put your foot on one end and pull on the free end with steady pressure. This will compress the spring enough to attach the safety locks to the spring relieving considerable pressure.

Step Four: Repeat on remaining spring and release animal.

Minnesota Trappers Association

www.mntrappers.org