



Trapping seasons are open in Idaho for a variety of species at many different times of the year. This information can be viewed on the Idaho Fish and Game website. Dog owners should be aware that traps may be present on the landscape, especially during fall and winter. Dogs will be attracted to foothold trap sets due to the scent and bait, and they may also encounter snares and body-grip traps.

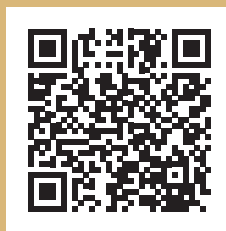
If a pet is accidentally caught in a foothold trap or snare, it is possible to safely release them if you understand and follow a few basic steps.

Most traps and snares are simple in design and easy to operate if you know what to do. Some of the larger foothold and body-gripping traps can be challenging because they require more effort to open, but the principles are the same.

The first thing to remember is that a dog in a trap will be frightened, but not necessarily hurt. However the longer the dog is in a trap the more likely it is to struggle and be injured.



It is a good idea to carry a pair of heavy duty wire cutters and a 6-foot rope or leash. These are essential tools that may end up saving your dog.



See the video at:
fishandgame.idaho.gov



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*This publication will be made available in alternative formats upon request. Please contact the Department of Fish and Game for assistance.
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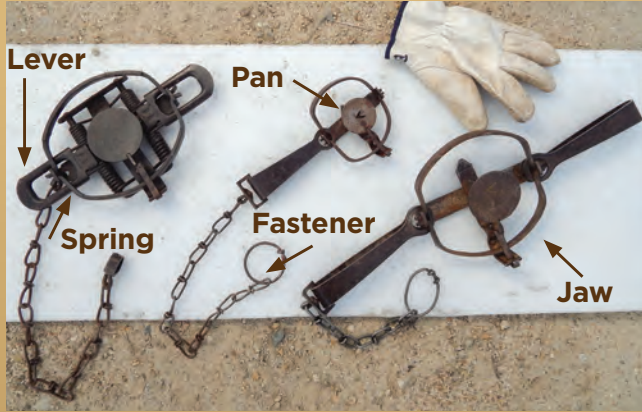
How to Release your Pet from a Trap



See the video at:
fishandgame.idaho.gov

Foothold Traps

A foothold trap is made up of two jaws, one or more springs, and a round trigger in the middle called the pan, and a chain to secure the trap. When an animal steps on the pan, the jaws close around the foot which prevents the animal from escaping.



The coil spring, single flat, and double flat spring traps in the open or "set" position.

Regardless of the style of foothold trap, opening the jaws is accomplished basically the same for all. You must compress the levers or springs on either side of the trap jaws with your hands or feet to open the trap.



1 First cover your dog's face with a coat or shirt. It may be best to put the dog's face in the sleeve. This will help calm your dog and prevent him from biting you while you attempt to release it. Dog owners have sustained bites removing their dogs from traps, even though the animals themselves were unharmed.



2 For best results, apply force to the levers or springs as closely to the jaws as possible for the most leverage. When adequate force is applied to compress the springs, pressure on the trap jaws will be reduced allowing the jaws to open and the pet to pull its foot free.

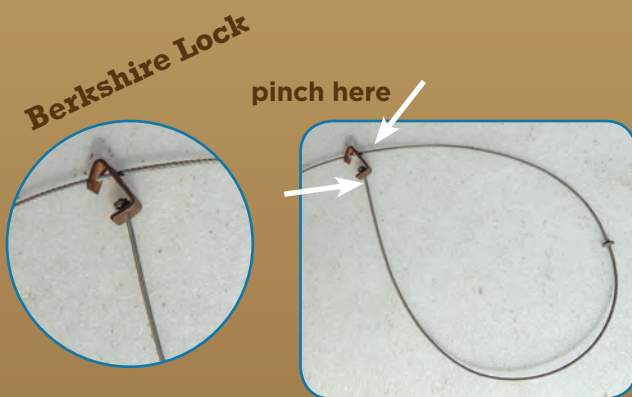
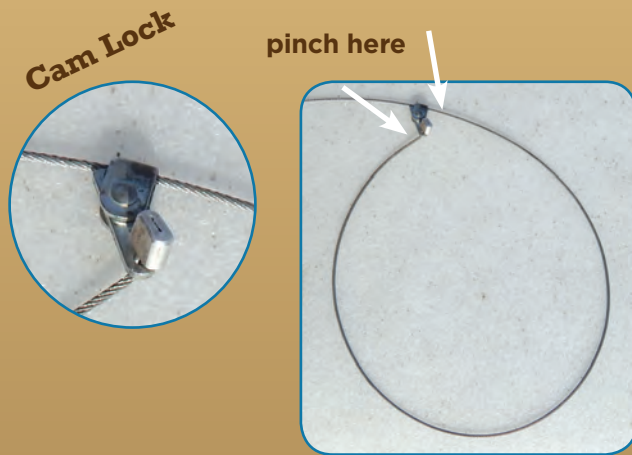


Snare

A snare consists of a length of small diameter multi-strand steel cable that has a noose on one end to catch animals by the neck or body. Because of the tough structure of the cable, they are not easily broken or cut.

If a dog is caught by the neck in a snare, it may not be able to bark and may rapidly suffocate if they are not immediately removed.

Different snare lock mechanisms work similarly.



1 Calm the animal. The more the animal struggles, the tighter the noose will get. Pinch the cables together in front of the lock mechanism to release the tension and then slide the lock mechanism back.



2 Release the tension and slide lock mechanism up the cable.



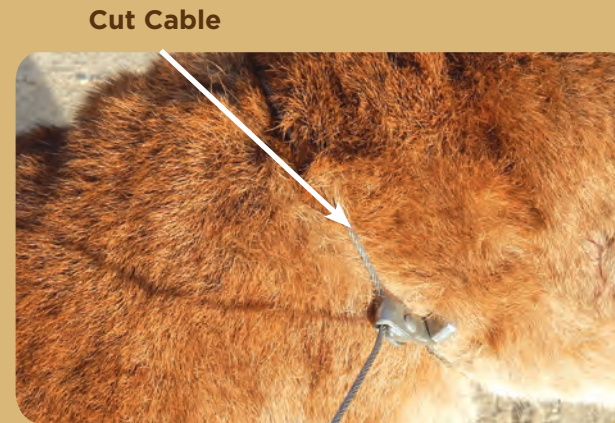
A snare can be cut if you are equipped with the proper cutting tool. Normal wire cutters or Leatherman-style tools will not likely be able to cut through the snare cable because the noose will likely be drawn very tight around the neck and the multi-strand cable is very difficult to cut.

The quickest and easiest way to cut snare cable is with a pair of short-nosed cable cutters. Felco™ or similar brand is recommended and can be found online or at some hardware stores.



If not equipped with the proper tools to cut the snare, a person must again focus on releasing the locking mechanism to open the snare noose.

3 If you cannot slide lock mechanism, you must cut the cable.

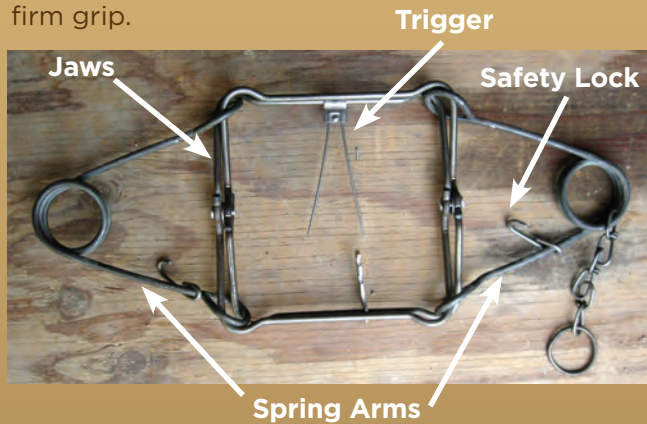


Body-Grip Trap

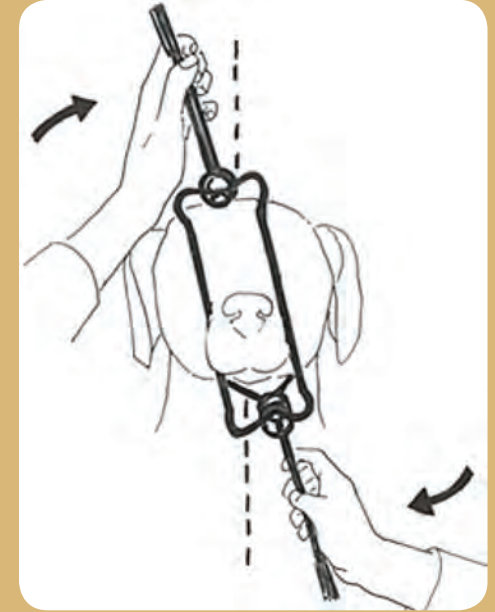
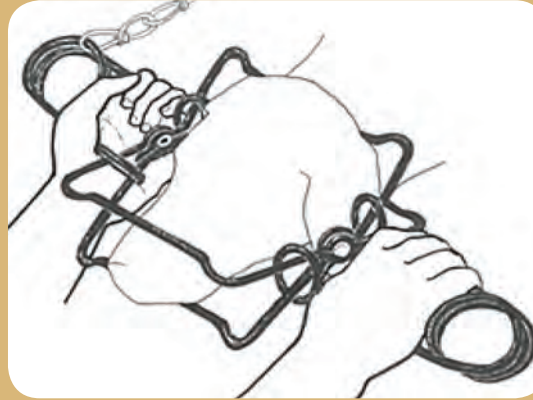
Body-grip traps come in a variety of sizes with openings ranging from 5 inches to 12 inches.

If a dog is caught in a body-grip trap, it is most likely to be trapped by its neck or head, so it is critical you understand how to act quickly to release your dog.

Your dog is likely to have its windpipe blocked, so it will be unable to bark and may become unconscious quickly. Smaller body-gripping traps can be removed quickly by compressing the springs with your hands if you have a firm grip.



1 If you have a strong grip, squeeze both springs and rotate the trap 90 degrees to take the pressure off the dog's windpipe. Be careful to not further injure the dog by twisting its head and neck especially if it is a smaller dog.



2 Next, compress one of the springs using both hands until you can fasten the lock. Repeat on the other spring, then slide the dog's head from between the trap jaws.



3 If you cannot compress the springs with your hands, you will need to use a rope or leash. Feed the loop of your leash or rope through the loops of the spring twice. Maintain the trap in the horizontal position to prevent further injury to your dog's neck. Put your foot through the loop of your leash or stand on the rope. Pull the leash/rope until the spring is fully compressed and you can place the lock over spring. Repeat on the other side. Remove the trap by sliding over the head.

