

Leg hold traps, neck and foot snares, and Conibear traps are widely used in Oregon. Of these, all but foot snares are used by fur trappers during the season, which runs from December 1 through March 15.



Traps can be found on public and private land. Oregon law requires no setbacks from trails or roads, and fur traps are not marked or posted. Animal-control trapping goes on throughout the year and traps are most often found where livestock are penned or grazed.

### M-44 POISON

In addition to leg- and body-hold traps, the USDA Wildlife Services use M-44, a lethal device that ejects sodium cyanide into the mouth of an animal and is commonly used to kill coyotes. They are not selective and therefore kill non-targeted animals including dogs.

Here's what to watch for –



## TrapFree Oregon



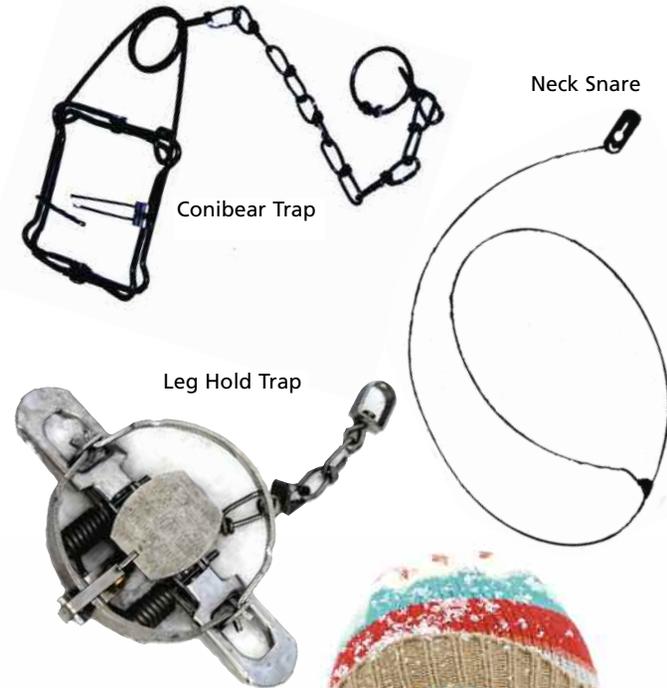
Oregonians working to keep our public lands safe for ourselves and our pets, and to promote humane treatment of our wildlife.

View our website at [trapfreeoregon.org](http://trapfreeoregon.org)



During fur trapping season, traps can be found on Oregon's public and private lands.

## HOW TO FREE YOUR PET FROM A BODY-GRIPPING TRAP



**PROTECT YOUR PETS**



### LEG HOLD TRAPS

Leg hold traps are the most common and the easiest to open. If your pet is struggling so that you can't get at the

trap, put your jacket, shirt, anything, over his head both to quiet him and to prevent him from biting you. Once your dog (or cat) is controllable, kneel down, place a hand on each spring at the side of the trap, and press down. If you can't depress the springs this way, stand with your feet on the ends of the trap as shown below. The jaws will relax and the paw will pull free. Most injuries occur when the animal bites at the trap, at his paw, or struggles so hard that he injures his leg.



### CONIBEAR TRAPS

These are the most dangerous to your pet. In Oregon, traps with up to a 9" jaw spread are legal to use on dry land. Most

are impossible to open by hand, and in many states, their use is prohibited except in water, to avoid trapping non-targeted animals, including dogs.

Conibear traps have a square frame with two rotating jaws. Larger versions typically have two springs. These traps are designed to strike small- to medium sized animals in the neck and kill them quickly by breaking the neck or by strangulation. You must act quickly to save your pet.



#### STEP 1:

Thread a leash/rope through the two rings of one spring. The rings are located where the springs meet the rotating jaws.

#### STEP 2:

Bring the leash/rope around and thread it through the initial ring far enough to provide a good "handle."

#### STEP 3:

Put your foot on one end and pull the free end. PULL HARD! This will compress the spring so the safety lock can be engaged. Repeat on the second spring.



### NECK AND LEG SNARES

Snares are generally made of steel aircraft cable and have a locking device which prevents the snare from loosening after

the animal is captured. As a result, the harder the animal fights, the tighter the snare. Some animals freeze when they feel the snare, but most struggle violently and the noose may become embedded in the neck.

If you're lucky enough to be right next to your pet when he's trapped, you may be able to work the lock loose and back him out. Otherwise you must use heavy-duty wire cutters.



Work the wire cutters under the noose and cut the snare. It may help to cut the tether first.

**TrapFree Oregon**

