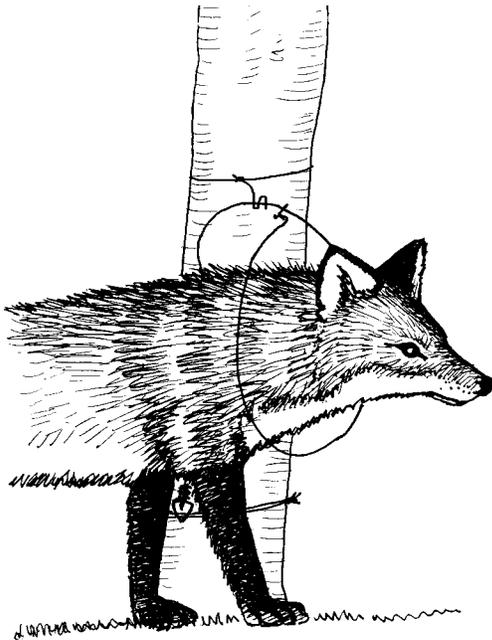


# Setting Snares

To set a snare, the looped end of the snare is suspended over a trail or path that the animal is expected to use. The animal enters the snare, sticking its head through the loop, and through its forward progress draws the snare down on itself.

It should be noted, that not all animals are snared by catching them around the neck. You will be more successful snaring some animals like raccoon and beaver if the snare cinches up on their body somewhere behind one or both of their front legs. These animals both have a short, rounded head and a great deal of manual dexterity with their front feet. Using their front paws, these animals can often slip a snare off over their head.

Other animals, most notably canines, have a long tapered head that is very wide just behind their ears. When a snare closes on their neck it is very unlikely they will be able to slip out of it or remove it. In this case, it is better to snare these animals by the neck.

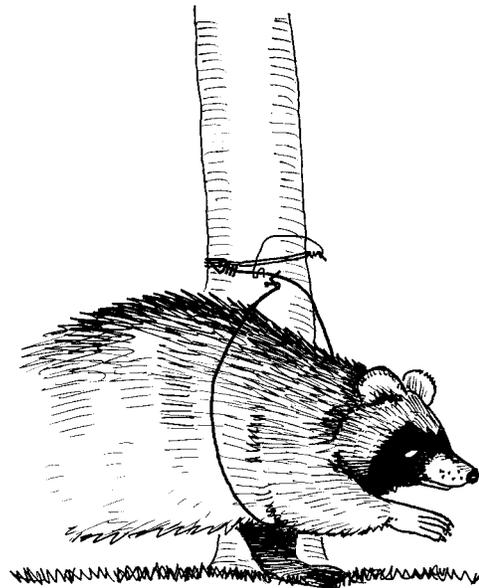


In snaring canines the snare is positioned to catch the animal around the neck. The loop should be large enough to comfortably admit the animal's head. It should be positioned low enough to clear the animal's chin, but high enough so the animal does not step through it.

There are two major considerations in setting a snare to target a specific animal — the size of the loop and the distance from the bottom of the loop to the ground. In making these determinations you must consider the size of the animal, the height of the animal's head above the ground (generally determined by the length of its legs) and whether it is best to catch the animal by the neck or by the body.

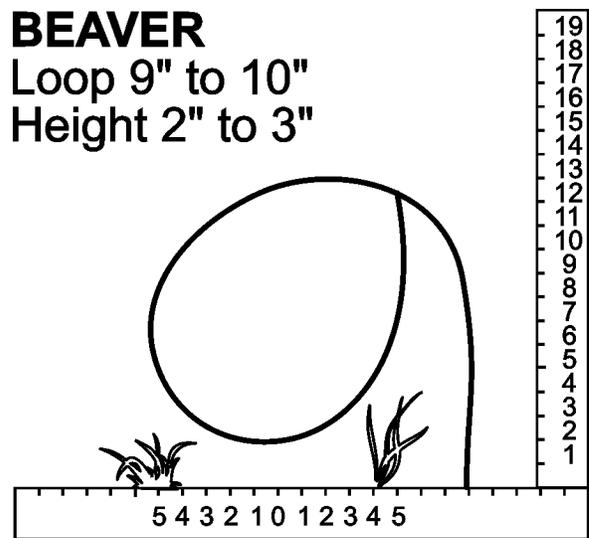
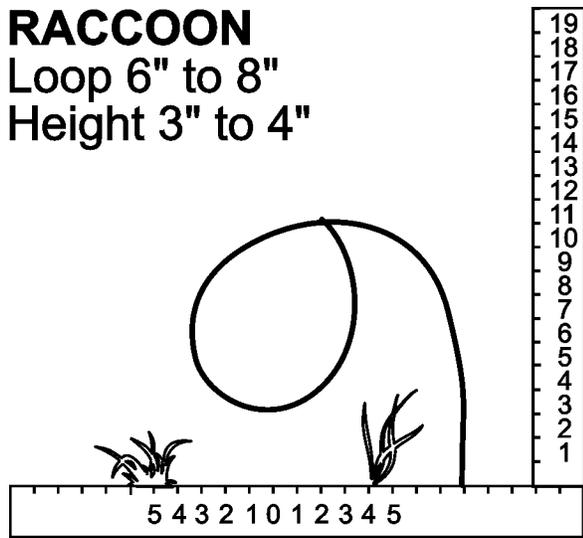
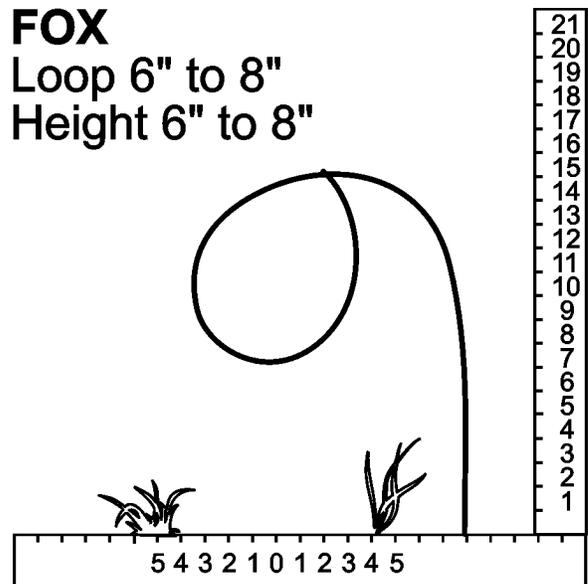
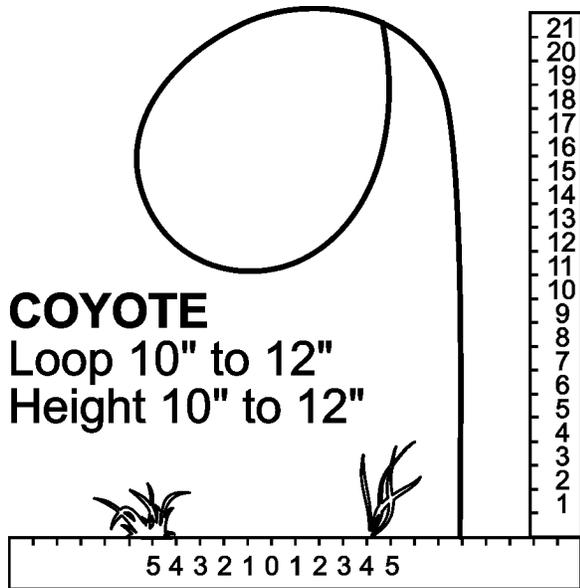
For an animal you want to snare by the neck, the snare loop should be just large enough to admit the animal's head. The snare should be positioned so that the bottom of the loop strikes the animal's chest at the base of the neck after its head goes through the loop.

To snare an animal by the body, you need a loop big enough to admit the front portion of the animal's body. The loop must be low enough to the ground so that the animal can step through it, but high enough to strike the animal's chest after the animal steps through the snare.

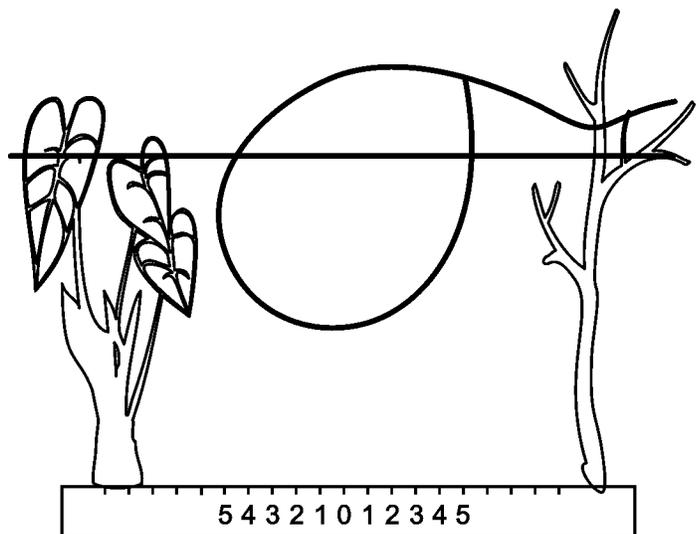


Raccoon and beaver have a great deal of dexterity with their front paws and can often slip a snare off their neck. These animals are more successfully snared around the body. The snare loop should be large enough to admit the front portion of the animal's body and positioned low enough so the animal can step one or both front legs through the loop.

# Loop Sizes and Heights for Furbearers



**BEAVER (Swimming)**  
 Loop 9" to 10"  
 Height 1/3 above water  
 2/3 below water



# Avoiding Deer and Livestock

While your snares will be set to take furbearing animals, the possibility exists that larger animals, like deer or livestock could get tangled up in your snare. This usually happens when the animal is walking along and gets its foot through the snare loop.

Some of the Ohio regulations are designed to deal with this problem. Snares, or any other trapping devices, cannot be set in paths commonly used by humans or domestic animals. This means snares cannot be set in active livestock trails. In regards to deer, Ohio snares must employ one of two features. One option is to install a stop on the cable that prevents the loop from closing past a diameter of 2-1/2 inches. This would allow a deer to shake the snare off its foot. The other option is to use a lock or lock system that will break away from the snare cable at 350 pounds or less. This would allow a deer to break the lock as it pulls against the snare.

These regulations are designed to minimize the potential for detaining a large animal in your snare. Still the best way to avoid deer and livestock is to avoid setting your snares where these animals are likely to be encountered.

You should not set snares within the confines of a pasture where livestock is present. Deer are free roaming, wild animals, but you can take measures to avoid catching them in your snares. Do not set snares on trails that show frequent or heavy use by deer.

There are other instances when you may want to set a snare on a trail that is not regularly used by deer, but still the possibility exists that a deer might take that trail. In this case, you can construct the set to make the deer avoid your snare.

The best way to do this is to place a pole over your snare. The pole should be about the size of your wrist or larger. You can place the pole horizontally over your snare and support it on each end. This gives the appearance of the goal posts on a football field. With the pole just above the snare, the deer will jump or step over the pole, while the target animal will go under the pole and into the snare.

Another option is to use a "leaning" pole to steer the deer away from your snare. This is best accomplished where the trail passes close to a tree and the snare is fastened to the tree. Here, you can lean a pole against the tree at an angle with the snare between the pole and the tree. A deer will walk around the outside of the pole and avoid the snare. Make sure there is room on the outside of the pole for the deer to detour around it.

In each of these cases, the pole should be propped up so that it will not fall down easily. However, the pole should not be wired or permanently fastened in place because it could create an entanglement situation for the animal. The animal should be able to knock the pole over if it gets the snare around it.



Do not set snares in the confines of a pasture where livestock is present.



Avoid setting snares in trails that show heavy use by deer. In trails that do not show deer activity but might be used by a deer at some time, you can set up objects that will guide the deer away from your snare. Here a pole is leaned against the tree to make the deer step off to one side. In using this method, make sure there is room on the outside of the pole for the deer to pass.

Here a pole is laid horizontally over the snare. If a deer encounters this pole, it will jump over the pole and miss the snare. This is sometimes called a "jump pole". Do not fasten these poles in place too solidly, or they may create an entanglement situation. An animal caught in the snare should be able to knock these poles down.



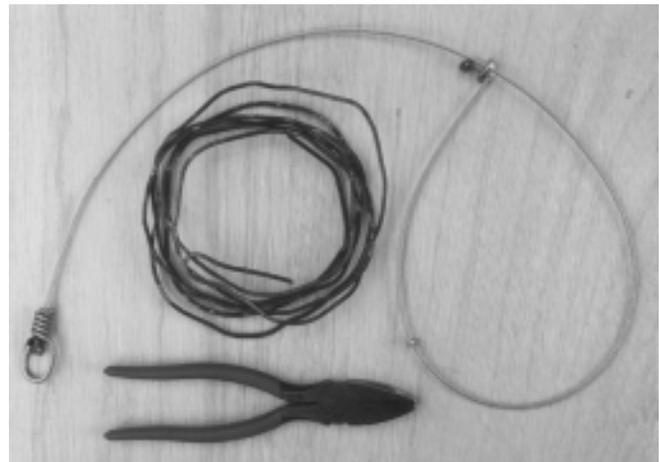
# Sets with Snares

Snaring requires a minimum amount of equipment for constructing sets. You need snares, wire with which to fasten and stabilize the snares, and pliers for cutting and twisting the wire. You will also need stakes and a hammer if you are going to fasten your snares this way. Another tool that you may need is a set of cable cutters. These cutters are specially designed to cut steel cable. It is nearly impossible to cut this cable with any type of regular pliers.

While other trapping devices, like foothold and bodygrip traps, can be used over and over again to catch animals, snares can be used only once. After an animal has been held in the snare, the cable will be bent and twisted, and the snare will no longer function properly. It is possible to use the hardware from the snare, like the lock and swivel, and make another snare using a new piece of cable, ferrules, and deer stop if necessary. Snares and snare components are available from trapping supply dealers.

The principles for constructing a set with a snare are somewhat different than those often applied with other trapping devices. Often trappers use bait or lure to get an animal to stop where the trap is set. Snares depend on an animal's continued forward progress to tighten down the snare loop. A set with a snare is basically a trail or blind set. You should not use lure or bait in close proximity of your snare or use anything else that would make an animal stop or hesitate as it approaches and enters the snare.

The following are examples of sets that can be made with snares. For these depictions, the snares have been painted white to make them easier for you to see. In actual practice, you would not use a white snare unless you were trapping in snow. To remove the shine from new snares and make them less visible, boil the snares for about a half-hour in a baking soda solution.



Snaring does not require a lot of equipment. You need snares, a roll of wire for fastening and stabilizing your snares, and pliers for cutting and bending the wire.



If you are going to do much snaring, you should invest in a set of cable cutters. These will cut snare cable quickly and cleanly. It is very difficult to cut snare cable with regular pliers.



Here is a snare set for coyote. The coyotes are going under a fence that is in the background. The snare has been set away from the fence at the edge of the tall grass. The snare is staked far enough away from the fence that any animal caught in it will not be able to reach the fence.



Here is a set for fox made in the woods on a trail. A pole has been leaned over the snare in case a deer comes down the trail. There is nothing within reach of the snare for the animal to tangle up on.



This snare is set for coon where the animals have made a trail through tall grass. There is no entanglement here and no danger of an animal being harmed by the snare.



Here is a snare set for beaver where the animals are climbing up over a creek bank. This is a clear area with no entanglement.