

New York Furbearer Trapping Regulations

Definition of Trapping

To trap means to take, kill or capture wildlife with traps, deadfalls and other devices commonly used to take wildlife, including the shooting or killing of lawfully trapped animals. It also includes all related activities such as placing, setting, staking or checking traps or assisting another person with these activities. You do not need a hunting license to shoot a trapped animal.

Other Definitions

- **Public Highway:** The traveled portion of a public highway. Culverts, drainage ditches, and the area under bridges are not considered the traveled portion of a public highway.
- **Carcass:** The body or parts thereof, meat, organs or viscera of an animal, including fish. Feathers (including feathers with attached skin or entire bird wings), hair (with or without skin or hide), and bones that include no attached meat, organs or viscera, are excluded from this definition.
- **Suspension:** This term applies to animals fully suspended in the air by means of the trap anchoring system (typically a chain, cable or wire). It does not apply to traps set in water or to traps that are directly and firmly attached to an elevated structure, such as a tree.
- **Restraining trap:** A device used to capture and restrain a mammal. These traps include leg-gripping traps ("foothold traps"), foot encapsulating traps, and cage or box traps.
- **Foot encapsulating trap:** A trap with the following mechanical attributes: The triggering and restraining mechanisms are enclosed within a housing; the triggering and restraining mechanisms are only accessible through a single opening when set; the opening does not exceed 2 inches in diameter; and the trap has a swivel mounted anchoring system.
- **Cage or box trap:** A type of restraining trap that fully encloses a captured animal within wood, wire, plastic, or metal.

Legal Traps

- You must put your name and address or your DEC customer identification number(see your hunting or trapping license) on all your traps.
- Foothold traps larger than 4" set on land must have a pan tension device and be covered when set.
- Teeth are not allowed on foothold traps.
- On land, foothold traps must be 5¾" or smaller (inside jaw spread).
- During beaver or otter season, foothold traps up to 7¼" are allowed if set underwater.

- When the beaver or otter season is closed, foothold traps set in water may not be larger than 5¾".
 - A foothold trap larger than 7¼" is never legal to use.
 - Body-gripping traps more than 7½" may never be used on land.
 - Body-gripping traps more than 7½" may only be used in water during an open beaver or otter season.
 - Snares may not be used for trapping.
 - Box or cage traps are legal for all species.
 - You may not use a cage trap that is designed to take more than one muskrat at a setting.

Trapping Methods

Checking Traps

- In the Southern Zone: You must check traps once in each 24 hour period.
- In the Northern Zone, follow these rules:
 - WMU 5C, 5F, 5G, 5H, 5J, 6F, 6J and 6N: Visited once in each 48 hour period
 - WMU 5A, 6A, 6C, 6G, 6H and 6K:
 - **Traps set in water during the open season for beaver, otter, mink and muskrat:** Visited once in each 48 hour period
 - **Body-gripping traps set on land:** Visited once in each 48 hour period
 - **Restraining traps:** Visited once in each 24 hour period.

Use of Carcasses & Bait

Any carcass, as defined above, used as bait and placed or used in conjunction with a foothold trap shall be completely covered at the time the trap is set or visited. Coverings shall include but not be limited to brush, branches, leaves, soil, snow, water, or enclosures constructed of wood, metal, wire, plastic or natural materials; and must completely cover the carcass so that it is not visible from directly above.

Land Trapping

- You may not set a trap in such a manner that it causes a captured animal to be fully suspended in the air.
- After December 10th in the Northern Zone, body-gripping traps set on land may not be set with bait or lure.

Water Trapping

- You may set a trap in a permanent body of water only when the mink, muskrat, otter, or beaver season is open.

- You may not disturb a muskrat house or den.
- You may not set a trap on or within 5 feet of a muskrat house.

Land or Water Trapping

- You may use any legal method to kill a trapped animal. You do not need a hunting license to use a firearm to kill a legally trapped animal.
- You may not set or stake a trap prior to 7:00 AM on opening day.
- You are not allowed to set a trap within 100 feet of a house, school, playground or church unless you have permission from the owner of the land where the trap is set.
- You may not set a trap on a public road. You are allowed to set a trap in a culvert or ditch unless the property is posted or the land-owner does not allow trapping.

Trapping Near Beaver Dams and Lodges

- You may not disturb a **beaver lodge** or beaver dam.
- Traps may not be set on or within 15 feet of a beaver lodge at any time.
- You may set a trap on or near (within 15 feet of) a **beaver dam** ONLY under these conditions:
 - You are trapping during an OPEN otter season.
 - If the otter season is CLOSED, you may use these traps:
 - Body-gripping trap that measures less than 5½ inches.
 - Foot encapsulating trap.
 - Foothold traps that are 4¾ inches or less.
 - Cage or box traps.

By limiting the trap sizes that are usable on beaver dams, this regulation provides greater opportunities for trappers while minimizing the accidental capture of otter.

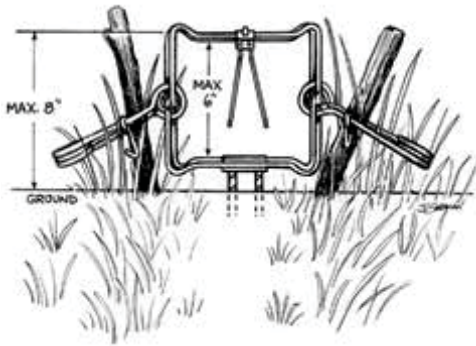
Cable Restraints

Cable restraints are not legal in New York, with one exception: with training, certification, and a special permit, a NWCO may use cable restraints to capture beaver.

NEW YORK FURBEARER TRAPPING REGULATIONS

REGULATIONS FOR BODY-GRIP TRAPS SET ON LAND

Body-gripping traps set on land shall not be within 100 feet of a public trail except on Wildlife Management Areas.

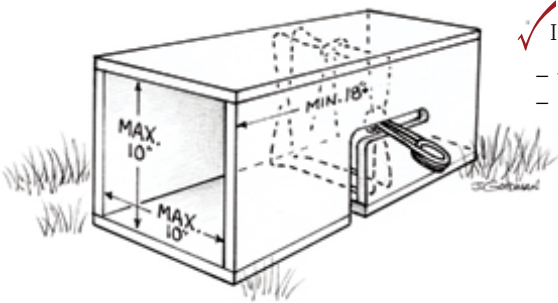
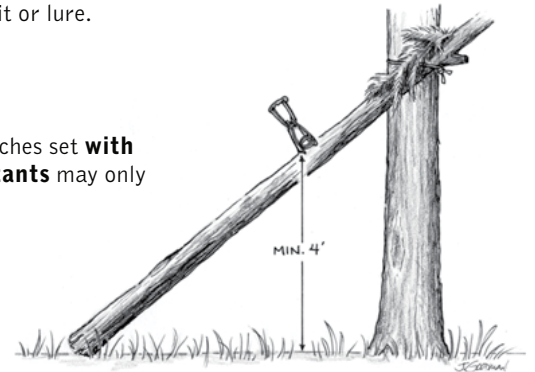


A body-gripping trap measuring less than 5½ inches may be set in any manner **with or without the use of bait**. Body-gripping traps measuring 5½ inches to 6 inches, set without the use of bait, must be set so that no part of the trap is 8 inches or more above the ground.

NOTE: After Dec. 10 in the Northern Zone body-gripping traps set on land may not be set with bait or lure.

Body-gripping traps 5½ inches to 7½ inches set **with the use of bait, lure, or other attractants** may only be used as follows:

✓ Four or more feet off the ground

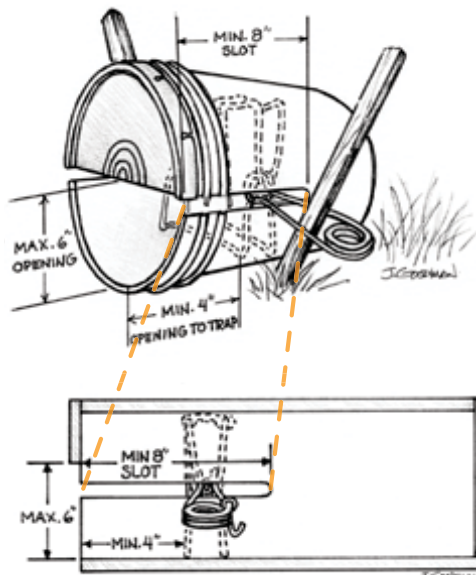
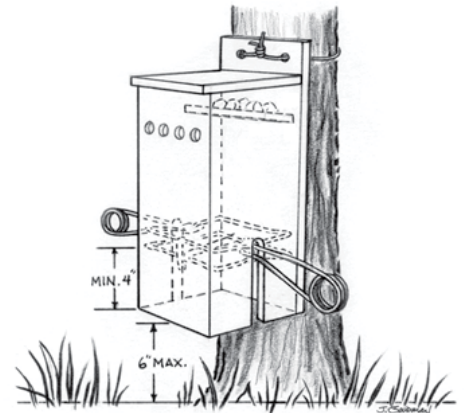


✓ In a container of the following design:

- trap recessed minimum of 18 inches
- opening height and width 10 inches or less

✓ In a container of the following design:

- only one entrance, facing the ground
- container set so entrance is no more than 6 inches from ground
- trap recessed minimum of 4 inches



✓ In a container of the following design:

- opening height 6 inches or less
- 8 inch minimum spring notches
- trap recessed minimum of 4 inches

You may also build an enclosure of natural materials (e.g., logs or rocks).

- opening height 6 inches or less
- trap recessed minimum of 8 inches



NEW YORK FURBEARER TRAPPING REGULATIONS

TRIGGER REGULATION FOR BEAVER TRAPPERS

This regulation applies if you:

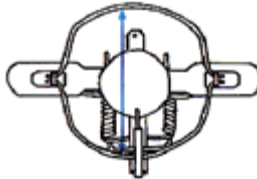
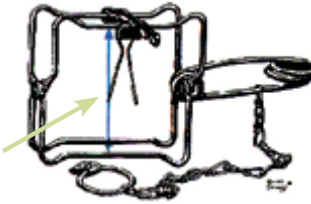
- Trap in a WMU in the Southern Zone during a closed otter season
- Use a body-gripping trap larger than nine inches (these are "330" size traps)

How to measure a body-gripping trap:

Measure the inside distance between the outer frames of the trap. The addition of one or more bars to the inside of the frame **does not** change the way these traps are measured. The measurement is still the MAXIMUM distance as shown in the top picture.

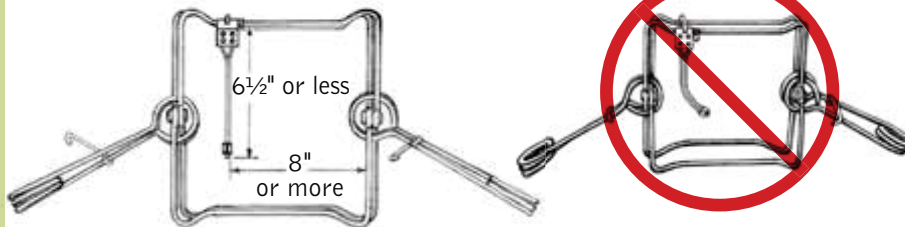
Specific requirements of the regulation are shown here in the diagrams below.

greater than 9"



5 3/4" or less on land,
7 1/4" or less under water

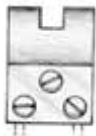
1. Body-gripping trap with off-set parallel trigger:



2. Example of non-legal vs. legal trigger brackets:

Non-legal: V-notch, four-way trigger

Legal: square-notch, two-way trigger



Two-way
tension
adjustable
(legal)

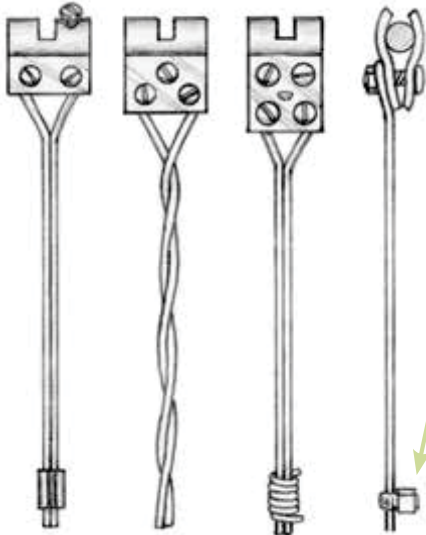


Two-way
non-tension
adjustable
(legal)



Four-way
trigger
(not legal)

3. Examples of acceptable parallel triggers:



The trigger must be 6 1/2" or less.

Recommended tension: 8 to 12 oz.

Trigger wires must be joined together.

NOTE:

1. You can bait these traps in any manner. However, the trap must have all of the features noted above.
2. There is no exception for traps set under ice: traps set under ice, whether baited or not, must have all of the design features noted above.
3. There is no tension requirement. However, DEC research showed that 8 to 12 oz. of tension works best for protecting otter and catching beaver.

4. Tension adjustable triggers and trigger stops are no longer required.

