



## TRAPPING GUIDE

### GROUNDHOGS

Groundhogs are medium sized rodents that burrow underground. Their burrows can be up to six feet deep, 20 feet wide, and may have two or more openings.

#### Know your target:

Groundhogs prefer woodland areas that are close to open, grassy fields. They don't travel more than 50-150 feet from their den, as they have poor eyesight and are largely defenseless against predators.

#### Choose your trap:

Traps should be 30-36" in length. Traps can have a single door or a double door. Great for this purpose is the Safeguard Universal trap. The bottom opening allows it to be set directly over the groundhog's hole.

#### Choose your bait:

These herbivores prefer fruits, plants, tree bark and grasses. Try baits from your garden - produce that you have noticed being eaten.

- ☐ Sunflower seeds, peanut butter, or corn.
- ☐ Cantaloupe, apples, tomatoes, carrots, peas, lettuce.

#### Setting the trap:

- ☐ The best location to place a trap is near the burrow. If you can't reach the opening to the burrow, choose a place it frequents.
- ☐ Consider some of these options:
  - Over or adjacent to the burrow hole.
  - Covertly in the garden area.
- ☐ Place the trap on an even level surface and stake down to prevent it from rolling.

- ☐ Cover the bottom of the trap in dirt to disguise the wire floor, but avoid placing anything under the trigger pan.
- ☐ Camouflage the trap with twigs, brush, branches, leaves, dirt, or grass.
- ☐ Groundhogs are skittish. Familiarize them with the trap by tying it open and baiting for a few days before setting it.
- ☐ Wear gloves to avoid transferring scent.

#### Releasing your catch:

It is unethical to leave an animal in a trap for an extended period without food or water. Check traps often and release the animal as soon as possible.

- ☐ Wear thick leather gloves to prevent bites from an animal that could transmit disease.
- ☐ Relocate the animal several miles from the location where they were caught. Be sure to check local rules and guidelines from your state game commission before releasing the animal.
- ☐ To keep the move peaceful, approach the trap slowly, use a gentle voice, and place a towel or covering over the cage.
- ☐ It is best to move the animal at night to limit the likelihood of them returning.

#### Prevent their return:

- ☐ Eliminate food and water sources such as birdseed, berries, and fruit.
- ☐ Some burrow openings can be found under sheds or outbuildings. Cover potential access points.
- ☐ Fill in holes. If they return, it will be noticeable when the holes are dug out again.