



## TRAPPING GUIDE

### PIGEONS

Pigeons are remarkable navigators and can find their way home from up to 1,300 miles away. They can do so after being transported in complete isolation to a location they've never been.

#### Know your target:

Pigeons are stout-bodied birds with short necks and short slender bills. They primarily feed on seeds, fruits, and plants.

#### Choose your trap:

Traps can hold up to 30 birds.

#### Choose your bait:

These birds are happy to eat nuts and seeds.

- ☐ Cracked or whole kernel corn
- ☐ Birdseed or fruit

#### Setting the trap:

- ☐ Find the best place to set the trap by observing birds' eating patterns. Place some bait in those areas for a few days to condition the birds.
- ☐ Place the trap on an even level surface.
- ☐ Place unset traps in those spots to acclimate birds to its presence.
- ☐ Set the traps with food and water.

#### 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 animals far 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.

#### Prevent their return:

Pigeons that have established a roost will find their way back to it, even over extensive distances. Releasing pigeons to relocate them will only work if they are new to the area where they were caught. If established, they will come back, unless humanely eliminated.

- ☐ Eliminate food and water sources such as birdseed, berries, and fruit.
- ☐ Reduce attractants. Pick up food scraps and keep trash cans or dumpsters closed.
- ☐ Remove roosting spots. Use netting/wire around ledges or perches. Cover roosting spots with sheet metal. Add bird strips around the perimeter of large buildings or fences.