



Trapping 101

DOC trap 12-step checklist

How you set & maintain your DOC 200 & 250 traps will determine your trapping success.

Follow this 12-step checklist to help get the best out of your trapping.

- 1.** Open the trap and unset the mechanism using the approved method (if not set off already). Do not spring the trap in an uncontrolled manner. This can damage the trap.
- 2.** Record the trap catch and status.
- 3.** Assess the trap location. Is it in a good position and presented in a way where it has the best chance of being encountered by a predator? Consider travel routes, and micro-move if needed.
- 4.** While the trap is unset, ensure that the box is level and rock-solid (no wiggling at the corners) and that the entranceway is clear of foliage and obstructions with fresh earth at the entrance and lead-in. Make sure that mesh entranceways are really smooth.
- 5.** Carry out any minor maintenance that's required, such as applying new nails or screws, securing mesh ends, or re-labelling the trap line and number on the box.
- 6.** Remove any dead animals from the trap. Do not re-set the trap at this stage.
- 7.** Clean dead animal debris from on and around the trap plate and from the entranceway.
- 8.** If scheduled, carry out a set-off weight check at this point: 100g max for DOC 200s and 120g max for DOC 250s. Use safe practice to do this.
- 9.** Change the lure in the trap, such as meat and egg. Remember: punctured eggs are better than whole eggs, and blood is better than dry. Throw away old bait (downwind!); do not leave it in the trap.
- 10.** Re-set the trap using the approved method (and using the setting tool for DOC 250s). Screw down the lid.
- 11.** Step back and look at the trap. Is there anything that could be better? Look at it through a predator's eyes, not just yours. How will a predator feel about your trap set?
- 12.** Finally, make sure you are practicing good hygiene and that you have all your gear with you before moving onto the next trap.