

# Snare & Traps 101

## SNARE

**Lethal:** Yes

**Dog can be left while the owner seeks help:** No

**Ease of opening:** If the locking mechanism can be wiggled free, a snare can easily be removed from a dog's neck. Otherwise, it takes a specialized cable cutter—not a wire cutter or a Leatherman-type multitool—to cut the cable, which should be done where the wire meets the locking mechanism.

**Where:** Most common on private land, especially around sheep operations, but also on public land, where they are used mainly to catch coyotes.

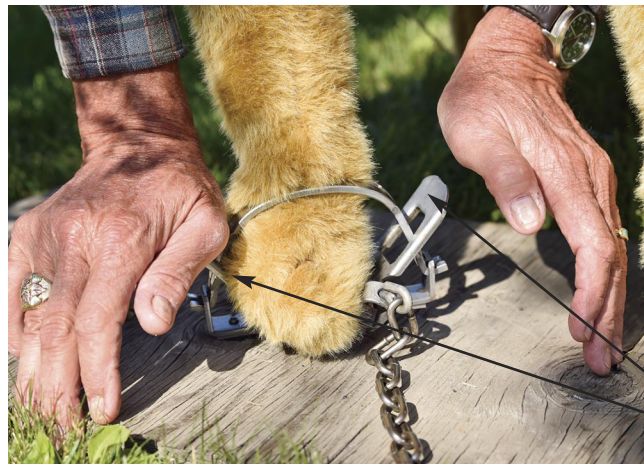
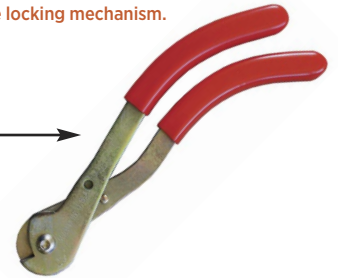
**When:** Year round on private land. Mostly in late fall and winter on public land.



Toggle the locking mechanism to loosen the cable.

Cut the cable at the neck near the locking mechanism.

Available at trapper supply stores, devices like this American-brand cable cutter costs less than \$25 and will cut through any snare.



## FOOTHOLD TRAP

**Lethal:** No

**Dog can be left while the owner seeks help:** Yes

**Ease of opening:** The jaws can be pried apart by placing the trap on the ground and pressing down on the springs on both sides with your feet or the palms of your hands enough for the dog's paw to pull free.

**Where:** On private land, and on public land beyond legal setback zones

**When:** Late fall and winter

Press down with your feet or the heel of your hands on both springs to free the dog's paw.

## BODY-GRIPPING TRAP

**Lethal:** Yes

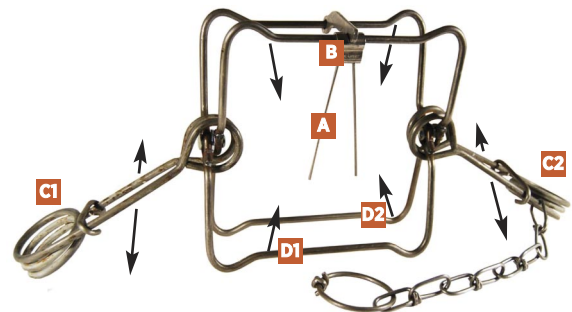
**Dog can be left while the owner seeks help:** No

**Ease of opening:** Larger models are extremely difficult to open and require training and ideal conditions. Smaller models are easier to open but require instruction to learn how they operate.

**Where:** On private land, and on public land beyond legal setback zones

**When:** Late fall and winter

**Note:** Many state laws regulate trapping locations, especially where people hike or cross-country ski with dogs. The odds of anyone with a dog encountering a trap are extremely slim.



This body-gripping trap is set for capture. When an animal pokes its head through the opening (A), it trips the latch (B), which allows the closed springs on either side (C1, C2) to open, causing the trap jaws (D1, D2) to snap down on the animal's neck or body. Larger versions are extremely difficult to open without practicing (with supervision) beforehand. Smaller versions are easier to open but require instruction.