

leased could create a problem for someone else.

In addition, federal, state and local authorities can advise you about traps and their use. Traps fall into two basic categories: live and lethal. Live traps include Woodstream's Havahart® cage traps while lethal traps include the body-gripping Conibear® trap.

There are other legal, as well as customer, considerations. Therefore, each nuisance animal problem should be handled on a case-by-case basis. As a guideline, if you follow federal, state and local regulations, you may safeguard your business from a potential liability lawsuit, prevent needless negative publicity and earn your customers' trust.

Trap facts

PCOs should also have sufficient knowledge about placing and baiting traps. For squirrels, set traps indoors at passageways or near entry points used by the animal. Outdoors, traps may be set near grain and feed bins, regular runways, den holes or areas where they are frequently seen.

Traps may also be placed off the ground to protect children and pets. If you're trapping squirrels or raccoons, it's best to place the trap on the roof and secure it with wire. By placing the trap on the roof or in the attic, chances of catching your target animal are increased, and you minimize chances of trapping other neighborhood animals.

Lethal traps are obviously very dangerous. While traps are very effective when placed under fences and in crawl spaces where nuisance animals tend to travel, extra caution should be taken since these locations could also be frequented by children and household pets.

Here are a few more trapping tips:

- Try to place traps out of direct sun.
- If you must place a trap in the sun, cover the top of the trap so the animal won't suffer from heat exhaustion. This will also protect the animal from rain and/or snow.
- Put leaves or grass on the bottom of the trap to disguise its me-

tallic parts, and make the animal less nervous about entering the trap.

■ If the trap is in the attic, place a piece of plywood or sheet metal underneath it so the pest won't gnaw or scratch away at insulation. Do the same when placing the trap on the ground to prevent soil from being pulled into the trap.

■ Keep traps out of public view to prevent tampering, theft or interference.

■ After capturing a skunk, quietly approach the cage, holding a blanket or large garbage bag in front of your feet and legs. Talk softly and reassuringly to the animal. Quickly cover the trap to provide security to the skunk and eliminate the risk of being sprayed.

■ When trapping raccoons, try setting a trap in an overturned garbage pail, particularly if they've previously been feeding there.

■ Prebait traps to increase your chances of success. To prebait, simply wire the trap door in an open position to allow the animal to enter, take the bait and leave. Prebait the trap twice, then set the trap a third time to capture the animal. Although this may seem like a drawn-out procedure, it may save you time in the long run. Animals can become trap shy, and by achieving success with the prebaited method, they become more

confident and less cautious.

Bait selections

Baits and lures can be effective ways to attract pests into traps. But, just as nuisance animals have different breeding characteristics, they also have different tastes.

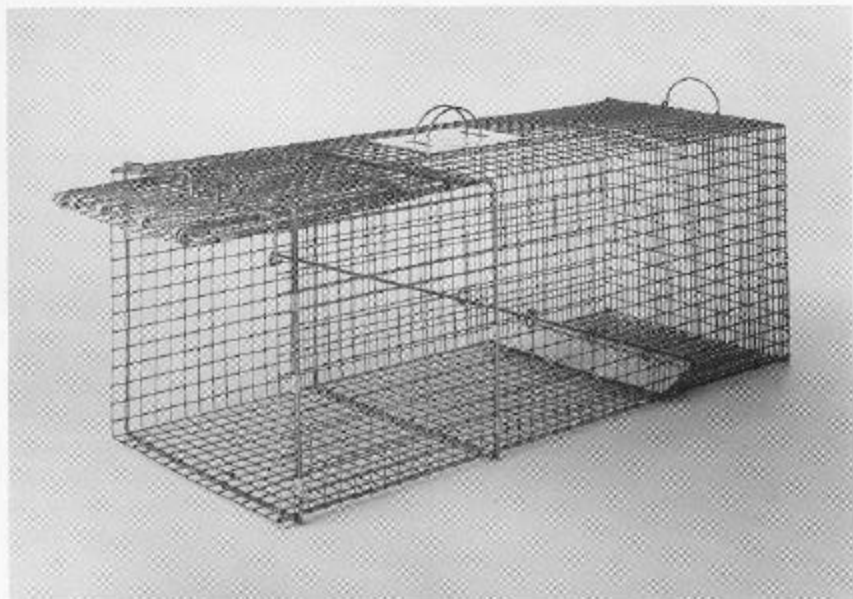
For example, raccoons like sardines, fruit jellies and marshmallows; rabbits enjoy sweet apples, carrots and parsnips; and skunks devour smoked fish, bacon, honey and greasy chicken bones.

If food doesn't do the trick, gland-based commercial lures are effective and available from trapping supply houses.

Placement of the bait is nearly as important as the location of the trap. According to William "Pete" Askins, Woodstream trapping expert, PCOs should elevate the bait off the ground to produce a clear scent line. Then, set the trap upwind of the animal's travel path.

Whether setting a trap or moving a trapped pest, PCOs should use extreme caution. Heavy leather, padded gloves, similar to fireplace gloves, are recommended. They will protect PCOs from being scratched or bitten, and contracting such diseases as rabies or coming in contact with ectoparasites found on these animals.

In Indiana, for example, some 50-80 percent of all raccoons carry the roundworm parasite. Roundworm has been known to



Some experts prefer a one-door trap because it is stronger, more effective, less expensive, easier to handle, and quicker to set than a two-door trap.