Some info about how you set up snares

Setting Snares

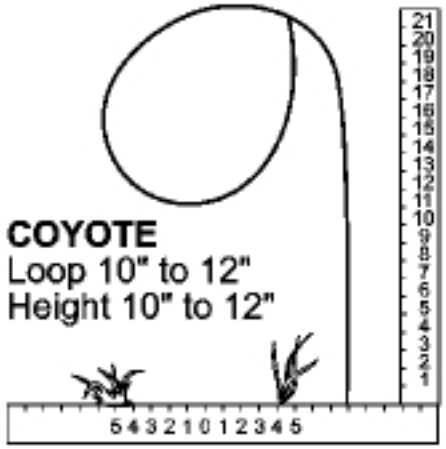
To set a snare, the looped end of the snare is suspended over a trail or path that the animal is expected to use. The animal enters the snare, sticking its head through the loop, and through its forward progress draws the snare down on itself. It should be noted, that not all animals are snared by catching them around the neck. You will be more successful snaring some animals like raccoon and beaver if the snare cinches up on their body somewhere behind one or both of their front legs. These animals both have a short, rounded head and a great deal of manual dexterity with their front feet. Using their front paws, these animals can often slip a snare off over their head. Other animals, most notably canines, have a head that is very wide just behind their ears. When a snare closes on their neck it is very unlikely they will be able to slip out of it or remove it. In this case, it is better to snare these animals by the neck.

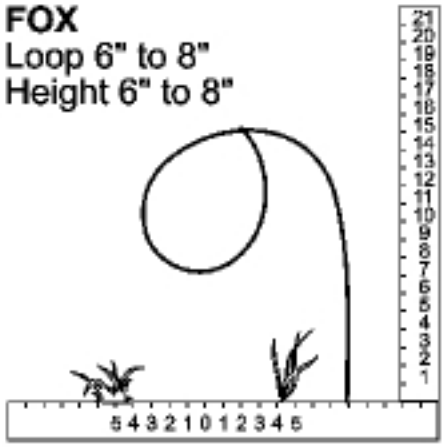
There are two major considerations in setting a snare to target a specific animal -- the size of the loop and the distance from the bottom of the loop to the ground. In making these determinations you must consider the size of the animal, the height of the animal's head above the ground (generally determined by the length of its legs) and whether it is best to catch the animal by the neck or by the body. For an animal you want to snare by the neck, the snare loop should be just large enough to admit the animal's head. The snare should be positioned so that the bottom of the loop strikes the animal's chest at the base of the neck after its head goes through the loop. To snare an animal by the body, you need a loop big enough to admit the front portion of the animal's body. The loop must be low enough to the ground so that the animal can step through it, but high enough to strike the animal's chest after the animal steps through the snare.

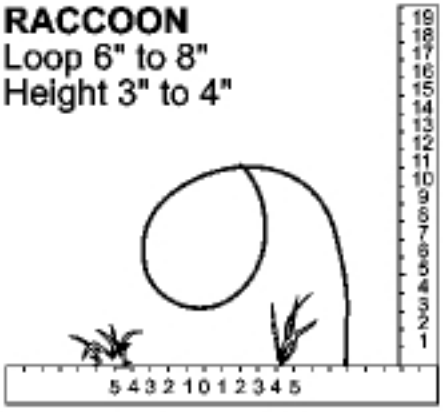
In snaring canines the snare is positioned to catch the animal around the neck. The loop should be large enough to comfortably admit the animal's head. It should be positioned low enough to clear the animal's chin, but high enough so the animal does not step through it.

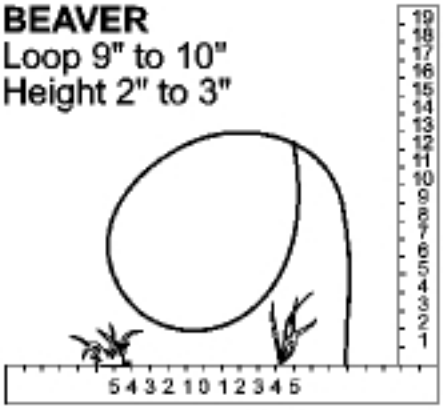
Raccoon and beaver have a great deal of dexterity with their front paws and can often slip a snare off their neck. These animals are more successfully snared around the body. The snare loop should be large enough to admit the front portion of the animal's body and positioned low enough so the animal can step one

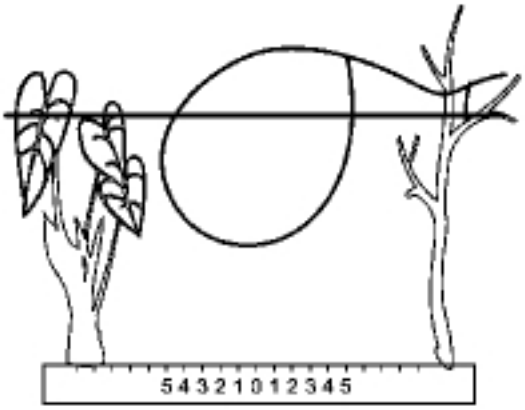
or both front legs through the loop.











Avoiding Deer and Livestock

While your snares will be set at the proper height, the possibility exists that larger animals, like deer or livestock could get tangled up in your snare. This usually happens when the animal is

walking along and gets its foot through the snare loop. Some of the Ohio regulations deal with this problem. Snares, or any other trapping devices, cannot be set in paths commonly used by humans or domestic animals. This means snares cannot be set in active livestock trails. In regards to deer, Ohio snares must employ one of two features. One option is to install a stop on the cable that prevents the loop from closing past a diameter of 2-1/2 inches. This would allow a deer to shake the snare off its foot. The other option is to use a lock or lock system that will break away from the snare cable at 350 pounds or less. This would allow a deer to break the lock as it struggles against the snare. These regulations are designed to minimize the amount of time a large animal in your snare. Still the best way to avoid deer and livestock is to avoid setting your snares where these animals are likely to be encountered. You should not set snares on pasture where livestock is present. Deer are free roaming, wild animals, but you can take measures to avoid catching them in your snares. Do not set snares on trails that show frequent or heavy use by deer. There are other instances when you may want to set a snare on a trail that is not regularly used by deer, but still the possibility exists that a deer might take that trail. In this case, you can construct the set to make the deer avoid the snare. The best way to do this is to place a pole over your wrist or larger. You can place the pole horizontally over your snare and support it on each end. This gives the appearance of the goal posts on a football field. With the pole just above the snare, the deer will jump or step over the pole, while the target animal will go under the pole and into the snare. Another option is to use the "leaning" pole to your snare. This is best accomplished where the trail passes close to a tree and the snare is fastened to the tree. Here, you can lean a pole against the tree at an angle with the snare between the pole and the tree. A deer will walk around the outside of the pole and avoid the snare. Make sure there is room on the outside of the pole for the deer to do so. In each of these cases, the pole should be wide enough that it will not fall down easily. However, the pole should not be wired or permanently fastened in place because it could create an entanglement situation for the animal. The animal should be able to knock the pole over if it gets the snare around it.

Do not set snares in the confines of a pasture where livestock is present.

Avoid setting snares in trails that show heavy use by deer. In trails that do not show deer activity but might be used by a deer at some time, you can set up objects that will guide the deer away from your snare. Here a pole is leaned against the tree to make the deer step off to one side. In using this method, make sure there is room on the outside of the pole for the deer to pass.

Here a pole is laid horizontally over the snare. If a deer encounters this pole, it will jump over the pole and miss the snare. This is sometimes called a "jump pole". Do not fasten these poles in place too solidly, or they may create an entanglement situation. An animal caught in the snare should be able to knock these poles down.

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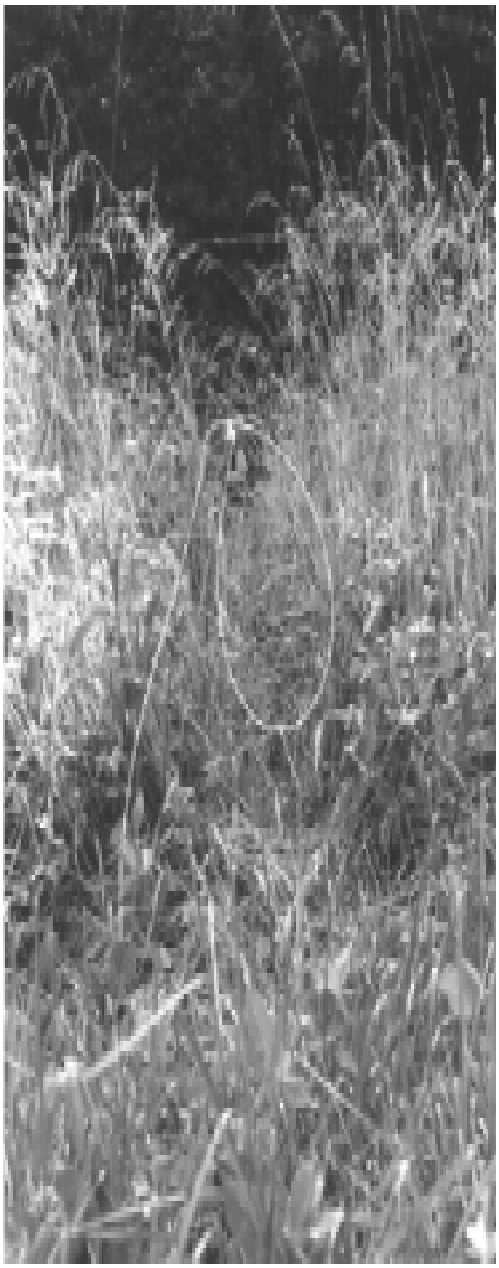

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