



Fur Trapping FAQ's

In Canada, which animals are trapped for their fur?

Animals trapped for their fur in Canada include, but are not limited to, wolves, coyotes, foxes, bobcats, lynx, beavers, muskrats, river otters, mink, raccoons, martens, weasels, fishers, wolverines, squirrels, badgers and opossums.

Isn't trapping highly regulated?

No. The so-called The Agreement on International Humane Trapping Standards (AIHTS) was developed by the fur industry, for the industry. The standards are so low, that the same cruel leg-hold, Conibear and snare traps continue to be used.

Furthermore, enforcement of these standards or any trapping laws are extremely difficult. For example, in the province of British Columbia of Canada, there are only 92 regional staff in the Conservation Officer Service to enforce the Wildlife Act. That averages about 1 Conservation Officer per 10,269 km².

I thought trapping is important because it manages wildlife populations?

Fur trapping does not manage wildlife populations. The fur trade traps and kills a *million* of Canada's wildlife *every* year from our ecosystem for needless fur products. These animals are *not* chosen because they are "surplus", weak, or diseased. They are killed because they happen to have a nice, thick fur that may sell at an auction.

Most fur-bearers' populations are maintained naturally by available food supply and habitat.

Are Fur-Bearer Defenders' videos showing animals suffering in traps real?

Yes. All of our film footage showing animals suffering in traps was taken by a licensed trapper, during trapping season on a registered trap line in the province of Alberta. The trapper gave the film footage to Fur-Bearer Defenders in an effort to try to help us educate others about trapping cruelty. Shortly after the film footage was taken, the trapper retired.

How many animals are trapped and killed for their fur?

Each year in Canada, approximately 1 million animals are trapped for their fur. (Another 1 million animals are killed on fur farms.)

Are leg-hold traps still legal in Canada?

Yes. Wolves, coyotes, lynx, foxes and bobcats can all be caught using leg-hold traps on land. Mink, beaver, muskrat and otter can all be caught using leg-hold traps in or near water. (But of course traps do not discriminate, and honest trappers will admit that they frequently catch and kill animals that the trap was never designed for, and was not set to catch.

I thought some traps kill animals instantly?

The so-called "kill traps" usually refer to Conibear type traps. But even the inventor, Mr. Frank Conibear himself, states that the Conibear trap does not work as intended. For the trap to have a chance to kill quickly the animal needs to be the just the "right size" and enter the trap at just the "right speed" from just the "right angle". The Conibear trap is now commonly known

as a body-holding trap that powerfully slams on various parts of the animal's body. Being painfully squeezed and crushed to death is not humane by any stretch.

Doesn't trapping help control disease?

Trapping does not control disease. Steel traps have not been designed to select out diseased, sick or weak animals. Furthermore, diseased animals are not a desirable catch for trappers because the pelt would be of little to no value.

Trapping is no less cruel than what happens in the wild. Nature is cruel.

Agreed, nature can be cruel. Animals in the wild are always subject to disease, starvation and predation. Although we can not save all animals from horrible deaths, trapping is cruelty we can stop.

How can people help trapped animals?

Learn all you can and voice your opposition to fur trapping. Write to the Canadian Government and your Member of Parliament. You can also support Fur-Bearer Defenders' campaigns. Visit furbearerdefenders.com for videos, photos and more ideas of how you can help.
