



Kindness and Care for Animals®

# TRAPPING

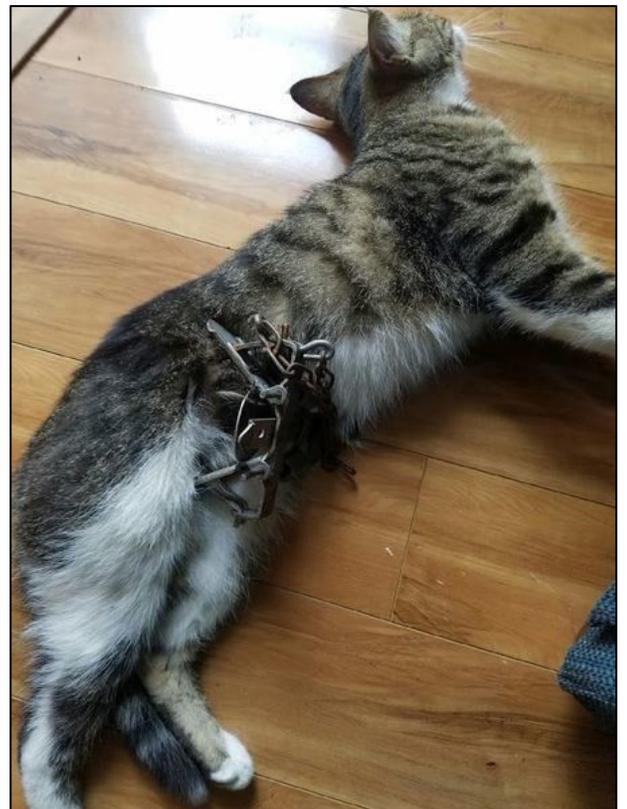
## Unintended Consequences



In March 2017 in Sandwich, this orange and white pet cat was ensnared in an illegal trap. The trap was likely meant to catch a medium-sized animal, like a raccoon. After the owner found her and the trap was removed from her paw, veterinarians feared that the paw would have to be amputated. Fortunately, she was able to recover from the incident without long-lasting damage.

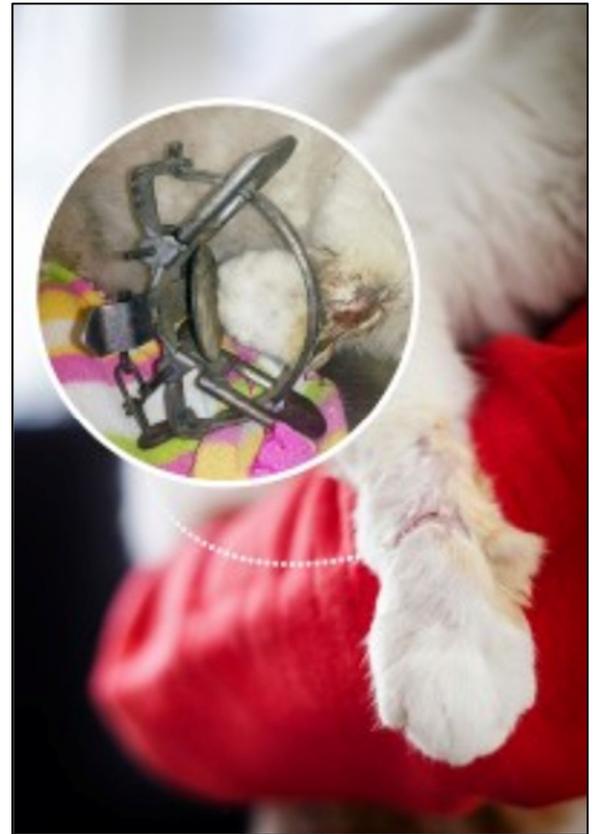
**Wild animals are the targets of these archaic devices, but companion animals are frequently caught, and most of the time the trapper is the only person to see the results.**

August the cat experienced a near-death encounter with a leghold trap in 2016. With the metal trap clenched around her belly, she slowly dragged herself back to her Salisbury home, crying out in intense pain. After hours of surgery, the trap was successfully removed and August survived; however, she suffered serious injuries from the ordeal and endured a long, grueling recovery. August's story is a perfect example of why firm trapping laws are needed—when traps are set in residential areas, domesticated animals suffer.

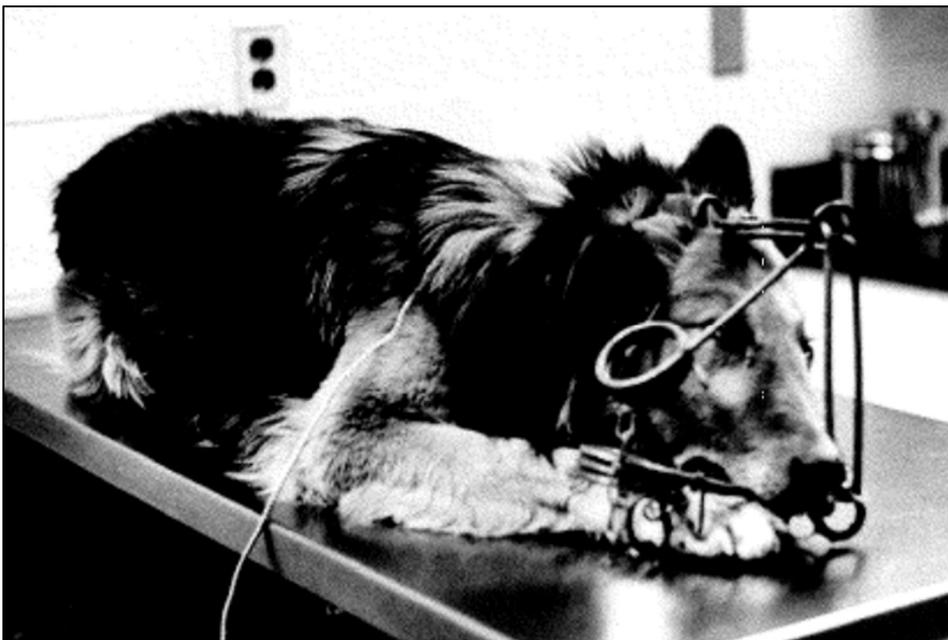




This Medfield cat became trapped in a leghold device in 2017; fortunately, she recovered.



Wilson the cat's front leg became trapped in a leghold trap in Westport in May, 2015. The six-year-old stray orange and white cat had severe swelling and immobility of his paw after veterinarians removed the trap.



Laddie the dog's head became stuck in a Conibear trap, set on land in South Natick. Laddie suffered facial paralysis, hearing loss, and damage to the right side of his head. Even Conibear trap proponents warn that dogs (or other animals) caught in these traps are not likely to survive.



Holly was caught in a padded leghold trap in 2011 and rushed to Tufts Veterinary Center. Doctors attempted to save her leg but the injury was too severe and required amputation.



Cindy lost half of her front leg when she was caught in three leghold traps for a week in Fall River. Though veterinarians tried to save her, Cindy had to be euthanized.

**Trappers don't always check their traps regularly; animals can suffer for days or weeks before being found.**

**Non-target wildlife also suffer tremendously in body-gripping traps.**



In 2010, this raccoon was found caught in a leghold trap in Bedford. The chain to the trap was entangled in the fence; two police officers had to coordinate cutting the chain while members of the Animal Rescue League captured the raccoon. His injuries were too severe to rehabilitate, however, and he was brought to Tufts to be euthanized.



This red fox, brought to the Cape Wildlife Center in Barnstable in 2003, caught his left front paw in a steel-jawed leghold trap.



Cape Wildlife Center staff determined that the fracture and minimal blood flow to the paw would require the amputation of the limb. They determined the fox was unlikely to survive in the wild as an amputee and that he would not adjust well to becoming an educational animal as an adult. The most humane choice was euthanasia.



As reported by an MSPCA employee: "What appeared to be a young adult raccoon was caught by a [leg] in the steel trap. The animal was in a state of frenzied panic. The animal was clenching to the fence, alternately biting his entrapped foot and a nearby branch trying violently to free himself. The trap had severed the bones of the [leg]. Because of his lengthy fight to be loose, the skin was pulled down, making the bones visible on both sides of the jaw. Blood was visible around the leg and discharging from the animal's nose."



This fox lost both front paws to body-gripping traps.