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PFSC On Target January/February 2018

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The mission of the Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, Inc. is to provide a statewide, united voice for the concerns of all sportsmen and conservationists; to insure that their rights and interests are protected; and to protect and enhance the environment and our natural resources.



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PFSC is one of Pennsylvania's oldest and largest conservation organizations, formed in 1932.

PFSC welcomes stories, art, and photographic contributions. We will consider, but assume no responsibility for unsolicited proposals, manuscripts, art, or photographs.

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An Eagle  
"fishing" on  
Lake Wilhelm,  
Mercer Co.  
Photo by Jim  
Law

Jim enjoys traveling around the state, sharing his photos and presenting a Wildlife Program at outdoor events. Enjoying Nature is a very big part of his life.





ENCOURAGING THE  
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## CABLE RESTRAINT OR SNARE?

By: Barry Warner, PTA Public Relations Director

**Be Responsible!  
 Be Respectful!  
 Be Ethical!**

We are frequently asked, what is the difference between a cable restraint and a snare.

Cable restraints were legalized by the Pennsylvania Game Commission after extensive testing was done to determine they were safe to use as a restraining device. The use of cable restraints, like all trapping activities, is highly regulated. Cable restraint devices may only be set by furtakers who have completed a certified cable restraint training course and possess a valid furtaker's license. Certification is accomplished by attending a four-hour course consisting of classroom and hands-on activities.

Regulation on construction and use of the cable restraint are mandated. The cable restraint must be constructed of galvanized stranded steel cable with a minimum diameter of 3/32 inches. The cable may not exceed 7

feet in length from the anchor point to the lock contacting the fully closed loop stop, must be equipped with at least one swivel between the loop and the anchor, and must have stops affixed to the cable to ensure that the circumference of the cable loop may not be greater than 38 inches when fully open, or less than 8 inches (deer stop) when fully closed. Cable restraints must be equipped with one of the six commission approved (relaxing type) locks. The cable restraint must include a breakaway device affixed between the lock and cable or at the end of the cable that is rated at 375 pounds or less.



*Barry teaching a cable restraint course to a WCO class*

Cable restraints must be anchored to prevent the animal caught in the restraint from moving from the set location. The animal caught must be able to move freely in a 360-degree arc for the entire length of the restraint without risk of entanglement. Loop size and loop height above the walking surface are regulated to prevent non-target catches. Cable restraints may not be set where there is a possibility of the caught animal being suspended.

The beaver snare does not re-

quire a certification, simply the securing of a furtaker's license. A beaver snare is a galvanized or stainless stranded steel cable 3/32 inches in diameter equipped with a mechanical sliding metal release lock. A metal ferrule must be crimped on the cable to prevent the snare loop from closing to a circumference less than 7 inches, commonly referred to as a deer stop.

Other regulations apply; such as name tags must be attached to these devices, beaver snares must be set within a water way, and etc. However, the regulations listed above provide the most important differences between the two devices.

In a nut shell, cable restraints must be constructed and set so that any animal caught will simply be restrained with little or no resulting trauma. Conversely, beaver snares may be set in shallow water, with no entanglement, and be perfectly safe and waiting for the trapper, or beaver snares may be set in deep water or with entanglement where the beaver has obviously been asphyxiated.

Beaver snares are frequently used by our conservation officers to capture beaver in areas of human conflict. When set properly they provide easy removal to remote areas with no resulting trauma to the beaver.

**PTA**




*Restrained Beaver*

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