

“In a civilized and cultivated country wild animals only continue to exist at all when preserved by sportsmen. [Those] who protest against all hunting, and consider sportsmen as enemies of wild life, are ignorant of the fact that in reality the genuine sportsman is by all odds the most important factor in keeping the larger and more valuable wild creatures from total extermination.”

THEODORE ROOSEVELT

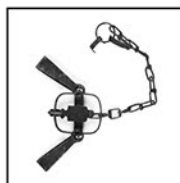


Lawful Traps in Pennsylvania

The following are lawfully approved and tested “live” traps. The captured animal exhibits little or no trauma. It is the responsibility of the trapper to determine whether the animal is harvested or released.



Single Long Spring



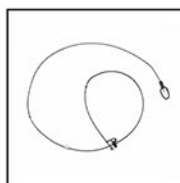
Double Long Spring



Coil Spring



Encapsulating



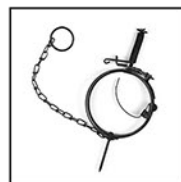
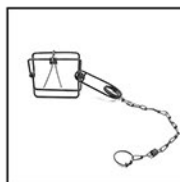
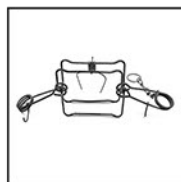
Cable Restraints and Beaver Snares*



Box

*Cable restraints are subject to specific season and certification requirements. Beaver snares must be set in the water.

In addition to the traps listed above, several body-gripping traps are also allowed in Pennsylvania. These traps harvest upon capture and are only permitted in a watercourse.



For more information about trapping in Pennsylvania, upcoming events, trapper training schools and other demonstrations, please visit our website or follow our organization on social media:



Pennsylvania Trappers Association

- 📍 patrappers.com
- 📷 [@pa_trappers_association](https://www.instagram.com/pa_trappers_association)
- 📌 [patrappersassociation](https://www.facebook.com/patrappersassociation)

On the fence about REGULATED TRAPPING?



What is Regulated Trapping?

When most people think of trapping, they tend to picture cruel-looking steel-jawed foothold traps with jagged metal “teeth”. Did you know that these kinds of traps have been outlawed in most states for almost fifty years? The truth is that modern traps have been designed to cause little or no trauma and preserve the dignity of the trapped animal.



This change, yes, even to the design of traps, has come about in part due to regulated trapping. Federal and state governments and Departments of Fish and Wildlife have helped to determine what kinds of traps are inefficient or ineffective, set specific seasons for various species, and set harvest limits to help responsibly control wildlife populations. Trappers today also follow nationally recognized Best Management Practices (BMP) which outline the most ethical and responsible trapping methods available, and recommend the most ethical traps to use for each species.

Why is regulated trapping even necessary?

To answer this question, let's consider a case study from Massachusetts. In 1996, a ballot referendum was passed by the public, who were largely uninformed or misinformed about trapping. The referendum banned specific types of traps from being used on the beaver population. The ban was promoted for reasons of public safety and wildlife protection.

Historically, beavers occupied most of North America. Their population decreased dramatically in the 19th century as a result of unregulated harvest and habitat loss.



As the country was developed, a great deal of human infrastructure was constructed while beaver populations were low or absent. In the 20th century, Fish and Wildlife agencies across the country worked to restore beaver and/or establish restricted and regulated harvest seasons.

The beaver's restoration provided multiple benefits including the creation of wetland habitats and ponds that recharge groundwater, filter sediments, control erosion, and create wildlife habitat.

However, as beaver populations rebounded and expanded, conflicts between humans and beavers increased, impacting public and private property and, in some cases, threatening public health and safety. Roads, septic systems, wells and other infrastructure are often affected by beaver activity.

Before the 1996 trap ban, the state's regulated trapping policies had aided in preventing and resolving these conflicts which helped maintain the public's acceptance and tolerance for beavers on the landscape.

While the goal of the referendum seemed noble, when the trap ban went into effect, there were a number of unintended negative consequences:

- Most trap types effective for capturing beavers were prohibited from use.
- The annual beaver harvest dropped from 1,270 to only 98 the first year after the ban.
- In 4 years, the beaver population doubled from approximately 23,000 to almost 50,000 and beaver complaints increased 90%.
- Most of these complaints required site visits, causing the Massachusetts Department of Fish and Wildlife to shift resources from wildlife conservation priorities to resolving human/beaver conflicts or damage.
- Beaver-related expenses for several town highway departments ranged from \$4,000 to \$21,000 per year from 1998-2002, and individual landowners are currently paying upwards of \$300 per beaver to have them trapped by nuisance animal control agents in conflict situations.
- Permits to trap nuisance beaver were taken from trappers and given to the Board of Health. The BOH keeps no records about the beaver population, and has no institutional knowledge about wildlife.

EVEN IF REGULATED TRAPPING WAS FULLY BANNED, TRAPPING WOULD STILL CONTINUE.

On the surface, fur trapping may seem like an antiquated practice; however, regulated trapping is necessary for a number of reasons, including:

- the protection of people, e.g. capturing rabid animals;
- the protection of property, e.g. preventing flooding and losses of livestock or crops;
- the protection of vulnerable endangered species from predators, e.g. ground and island nesting birds and sea turtles.

Thanks to volunteer trappers, U.S. citizens enjoy the benefits of responsibly managed wildlife populations at no cost to them or their tax dollars. Just as we have windows and doors on our homes to protect and separate ourselves from wildlife and the elements, trappers help to prevent personal property and municipal infrastructure from being damaged and degraded.

If we don't support the regulated trapping culture, someone will certainly have to foot the bill to resolve future human/wildlife conflicts, and Departments of Fish and Wildlife will be forced to spend more time and resources on trapping to resolve them.

WHO WILL PAY FOR THIS?

1. Landowners
2. Business Owners
3. You (Taxpayers)