

Collarum Neck Restraint Trap Information

NWCO's, who handle coyotes, will be pleased to know that there is a new coyote trap on the market called Collarum. Unlike other cable trap devices, this one captures the coyote by noosing it around the neck. While it catches like a snare, it isn't a snare. The trap utilizes two throw arms that hurl the noose towards the coyote when he pulls the bait bar. The beauty of this trap lies in that it doesn't choke the coyote. It only holds him like a dog on a leash. In light of the potential humanness of this trap, the National Wildlife Research Center tested it along with three other cable restraint capture devices, namely The Belisle, Panda and a restraint device produced by the Wildlife Services specialists. Their findings were published in the Wildlife Society Bulletin 2000: 28(3):606-613. For the purposes of this article, I will only be discussing the findings for the Collarum Neck Restraint.

The Collarum Neck Restraint is produced by the Green Mountain Inc. in Lander Wyoming. They developed a prototype in 1998 that underwent revisions in 1999. Both devices were tested by the National Wildlife Research Center. The Center wanted to test for capture rate efficiency (including selectivity) and for humanness through evaluating injury scores. The study was conducted by allowing the field personnel to use the devices for one week prior before recording results. This time would allow them to become familiar with the trap before the actual study began.

The rules of the test were as follows. First, no capture was to remain in a trap longer than 24 hours. Second, capture efficiency was calculated by dividing the number of animals caught by the number of potential captures. A potential capture is defined by the presence of a triggered trap where the coyote was either missed or escaped the trap. Third, trap selectivity was calculated by dividing the number of coyote captures by the total number of animals caught by the device. Fourth, coyotes were then to be necropsied by veterinarians to look for injuries. The veterinarians were not told what trap captured the coyotes. Injury scores were to be reckoned by the International Organization for Standardization standards of 1999. If you didn't know, humane guidelines require that before a trap is considered humane, it must capture at least 16 out of 20 animals without inflicting any severe injuries. Severe injuries include any damage to the eye, spine, ligaments, tooth loss, muscle degeneration, internal organ damage, severe bleeding, amputation, death etc.

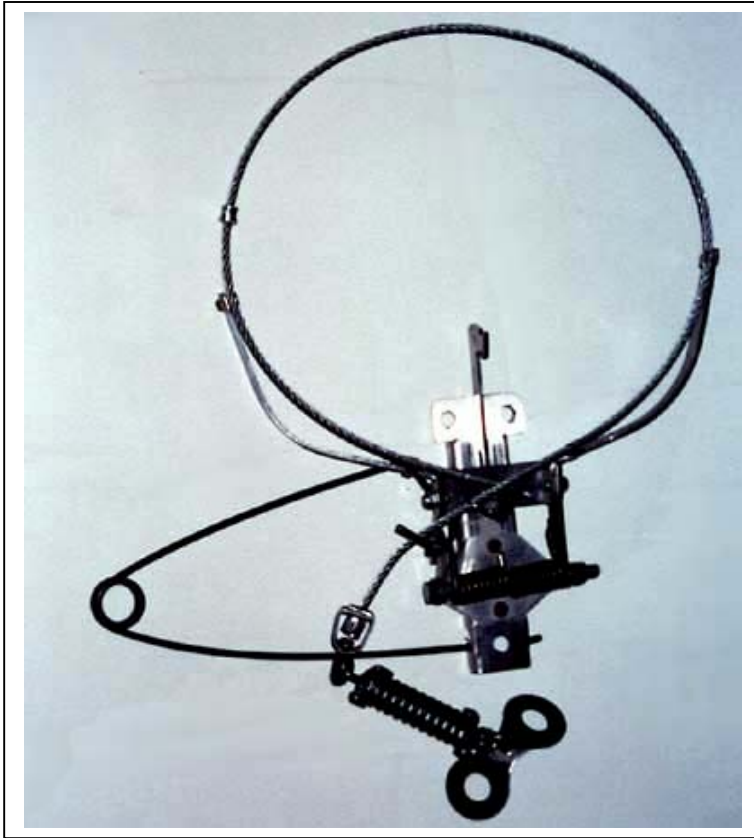
The test took place in two stages. The first stage tested the 1998 prototype. While the prototype captured 16 coyotes, it also suffered 5 escapes and 20 misfires giving it a pathetic capture efficiency rate of 39%. Injury scores were pretty good with 75% showing no major injuries. The injuries found were primarily head and neck swelling, one lost tooth and tooth damage.

The manufacturer modified the initial prototype by enlarging the throw arms (which makes for a wider loop) and stronger springs. Perhaps these changes were the cause behind the slightly higher capture rate (41%) in the second study. This study captured 29 coyotes, while sustaining 41 misfires and losses. Injury rates were slightly higher with only 70% meeting humane threshold guidelines. Injuries were similar to the initial study.

Before you ignore this trap due to its low capture rate, you might want to consider the following information. First, the trap had a selectivity rate of 100%. That is right, this trap only captured coyotes in both tests. I asked a representative of the manufacturer why this trap could achieve a perfect selectivity score. He told me that the reason lay with the triggering mechanism and the loop. He pointed out that this trap requires the animal to pull the trigger (in contrast to a foothold, where the animal pushes the trigger). Pulling, he said, was a uniquely canine quality. They bite and then they pull. I noted that other animals can pull, like raccoons. He agreed. But this is where the loop comes in. The loop doesn't close fast enough to catch animals much smaller than a coyote.

The second problem with the trap lay with its failure to pass the international humane guidelines. First, I think that the standard does have its problems. Finding traps that injure animals less is certainly important. But I think we should distinguish between injuries caused by the trap and those caused by the animal caught in the trap. In light of this new standard, the trap did very well, as most of the injuries were broken teeth caused by the coyote biting the cable. Second, I think the trap will eventually pass the

international standards. If they coat the cable with a plastic sheath, it may help protect the coyote's teeth thus raising the traps humaneness score.



Finally, the trap's failure rate is primarily caused by the directional nature of the trap. In order for the coyote to be captured, it must approach the trap from the front. The study's authors also thought that some of the coyotes who did approach correctly were missed due to their ducking down and therefore avoiding the cable. The authors', in contact with the manufacturer, have learned that the trap will be modified again with a second arm that pulls the cable tight. It is believed that having the noose close faster will reduce misfires from coyotes that approach from the front or the sides. Future studies will certainly discover if that hypothesis proves out.

In correspondence with the manufacturer, I have learned some new, more recent information. He reports he spent 3 days at the National Wildlife Research Center near Logan UT doing some testing of the most recent Collarum model.

After a very minor modification to the setting procedure, he states that the trap had a 100% capture rate on 10 coyotes. The trap is working beautifully! He also tells us that they tested a prototype of the Relaxalock (one-size-fits-all) and it worked very well.



The beauty of this trap lies in the manner in which it provides a targeted and humane way to capture canines. As we say in the NWCO business, it will be one more tool in the box. I understand that some people are buying the trap in order to catch stray dogs. Dog catching may be an excellent new growth field for NWCO's. I think NWCO's will be pleased with the selectivity of the trap. While the trap may catch a

non-target, you can be sure that as traps go this is about as selective as it gets. The trap also passes the visual humane test. Most people are comfortable with a dog being collared. So it should provide little public relations problems by catching coyotes by the neck. I also think that as NWCO's begin to experiment with this trap new setting techniques will emerge that should raise the trap's capture efficiency rate.

If you wish to purchase this trap, contact me below and we will set you up. We also have a video on the trap. You can purchase it at <http://www.wildlifedamagecontrol.com> As can be expected the traps are not cheap. The deluxe model costs 70.00 each. Fortunately, the trap's parts can be replaced so it should last a long time.

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