

# **T**RAP RESEARCH AND PERFORMANCE

Trap research has traditionally focused on various aspects of capturing furbearers, and in particular on refining and improving the welfare of captured animals. Wildlife biologists as well as many other people are interested in using the best technology available for the responsible capture of furbearers whether it be for sustenance (food & clothing), restoration projects, research or animal damage control.

Over the past two decades over 150 studies regarding the performance of various traps types and trapping systems have been conducted. The results have increased our understanding of many aspects of wildlife capture for over 20 species of furbearers.

Trap research has encompassed two general categories of trapping systems: kill traps and live restraining traps. Various studies have examined: trap efficiency, selectivity, safety to the user and the public, reducing and eliminating injury to captured animals, and dispatching animals as quickly as possible in the case of kill traps.

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For the future, developing new traps and improving old designs remains an important objective in furbearer management programs. A assortment of trap research needs have been identified, and if funding can be secured, numerous new studies will continue to be initiated over the next three years for numerous wildlife species throughout the United States and Canada. These studies will be important in the development of *Best Management Practices For Regulated Trapping* in the United States.