# Michigan 2006-2007 Fox & Coyote Non-Lethal Snaring Guide

# Michigan Fox & Coyote Snaring Guide

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# Snares Past & Present

When you mention snares or snaring to most people, they think of a bent over pole with a noose fastened to the end of it. They imagine an animal sticks its head through the noose, the pole springs free, and the animal is jerked off its feet and hung. The fact is that in days-gone-by, this is how snaring was practiced, and this is the image that remains with many people today.

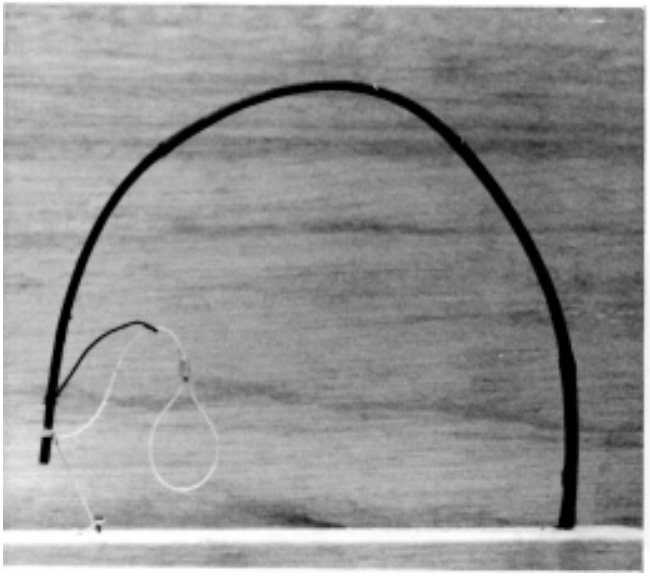
Obviously, a snare like this would be lethal to any animal that got in it. However, there are a couple of reasons why our forefathers constructed and used snares in this manner. First, the only thing available for making snares was cord or fine wire. Neither of these materials is exceptionally strong and an animal could easily bite the snare in two or break it. Also, they had no means for holding the noose closed to keep it cinched around the animal. For these reasons, they employed the spring pole. The pole pulled the noose closed, and ultimately dispatched the animal so it could not break the snare and escape.

Although this outdated misconception of snaring still exists, modern snares and modern snaring methods are significantly different from those of the past. Modern snares are made of stranded steel cable. This cable is extremely strong and resistant to abuse, yet it is flexible enough to form easily into a loop. An animal can't easily break this cable or bite it in two. The modern cable snare also has a locking device to keep the loop from opening back up once it starts to close.

With these two features, it is no longer necessary to use a powering device to keep a snare closed, and animals can be held alive because the cable can withstand their efforts to escape. This gives the potential for the modern cable snare to be used as a non-lethal trapping device.

Because old-fashioned snares only functioned in a lethal manner, snaring was banned in Michigan. But with the modern cable snare and its potential for holding animals alive and unharmed, the snare has been reinstituted as a legal device for Michigan's trappers taking fox and coyote.

This guide has been prepared to help familiarize you with the modern cable snare. It is designed to give you the basic knowledge you need to use snares safely and efficiently to take fox and coyote.



When most people think of snaring, this is what they visualize. This may be how snaring was practiced in days-gone-by, but today's modern cable snares are not used in this manner.

# The Modern Cable Snare

The modern cable snare is made of stranded steel cable. This cable comes in two basic configurations known as 7 x 7 and 7 x 19. The 7 x 7 cable consists of 7 strands of small diameter wire wound into a larger strand. Then, 7 of these larger strands are wound together to make the finished cable. The 7 x 19 cable uses 19 very small wires wound into a strand with 7 of these strands making up the cable. Michigan regulations specify that snares shall be made of 1 / 16 inch or larger cable.

This cable comes in several different sizes that designate the diameter of the cable. Cable measuring 3/32 of an inch in diameter is the most popular size for snaring.

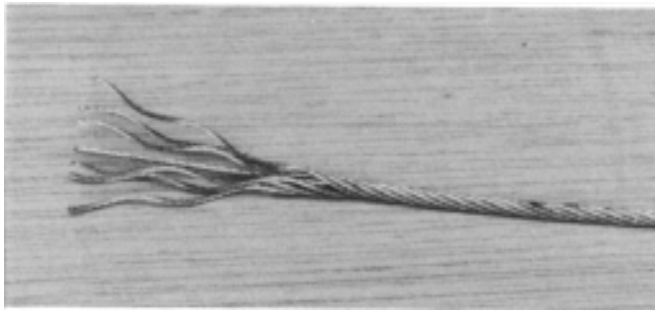
Another integral part of the modern cable snare is a sliding mechanical snare lock. As the snare loop is pulled closed, the lock slides down the cable. Although it may loosen slightly, the lock will not slide easily in the opposite direction. This is what keeps the animal from backing out of the snare or shaking the snare off.

Locks come in a wide variety of shapes, forms, and configurations. Michigan law requires a relaxing lock which is defined as a lock that allows the snare loop to loosen slightly when an animal stops pulling against it. This is to reduce the possibility of strangulation. Locks that use springs or other powering devices to hold them closed are not legal for use in Michigan. Modern cable snares also have some device on the end of the snare for fastening it in place. The simplest form of this is a loop fashioned in the end of the cable. However, most snares utilize a swivel as an end fastening device. Anchor swivels are required in Michigan because they allow the animal some freedom of movement while it is detained in the snare. Two swivels are required, one of which must be at the anchor point. Swivels help keep the cable from getting badly kinked and twisted as the animal is detained in the snare which could possibly lead to breakage of the cable.

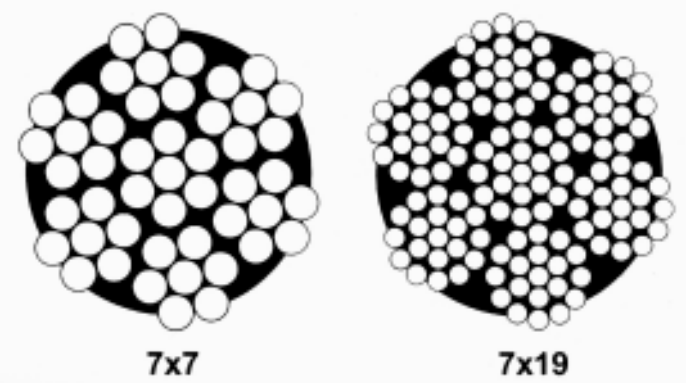
Ferrules are used to hold the lock and fastener in place on the snare. These ferrules are hammered or crimped into place on the snare cable. There are three basic types of ferrules: aluminum, coiled steel wire, and annealed steel nuts.

Another component that may be found on a snare is a stop crimped on the cable that prevents the snare loop from closing past a minimum diameter. These are commonly known as deer stops because they allow a deer to shake a snare off its foot should the deer get its foot in the snare. Deer stops that keep the snare loop from closing past a 4 1/4 inch diameter are required on a Michigan snare.

# Snare Cable

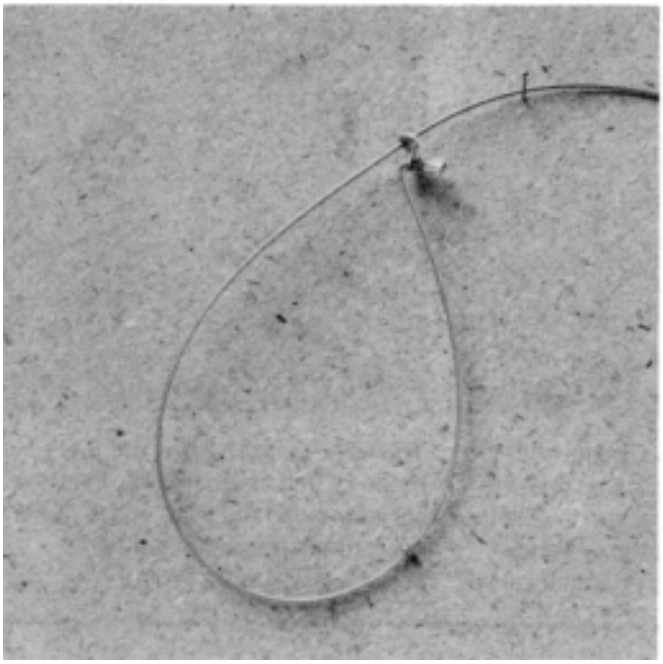


Modern snares are made of multi-strand steel cable. It is sometimes called aircraft cable. This cable is very strong and can hold an animal alive over an extended period of time. This eliminates the need to construct the snare as a lethal device. This piece of cable has been unraveled to show the individual strands

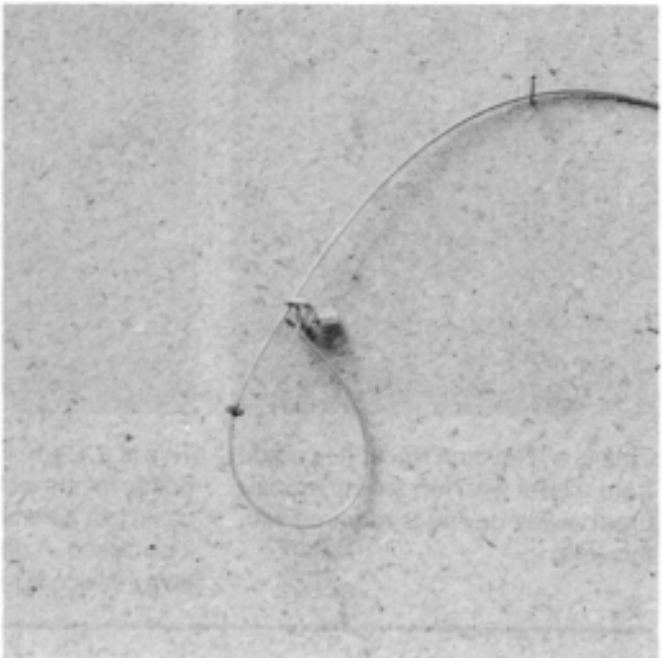



**There** are two basic types of cable. 7x7 cable has seven large strands of cable each made of seven small wires. 7x19 cable has seven large strands each made of nineteen small wires

# How the Lock Works



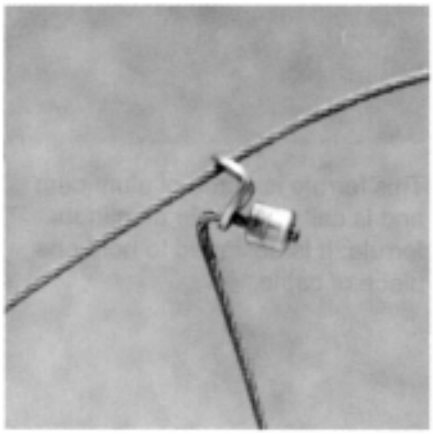
The lock is a very important part of the snare. The snare is set with an open loop so the animal can enter the snare.



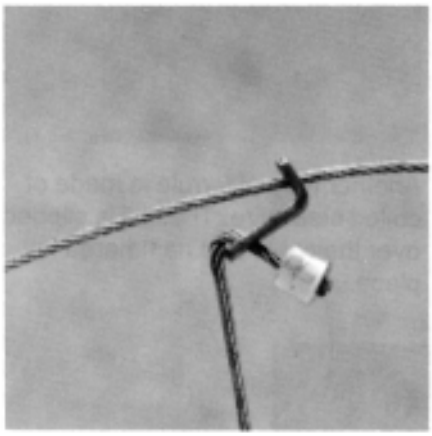
The lock is a very important part of the snare. The snare is set with an open loop so the animal can enter the snare.

# Locks

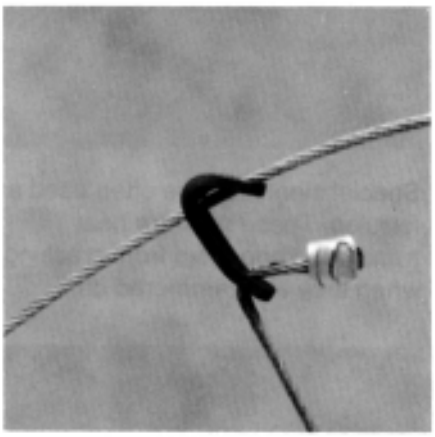
A wide variety of snare locks are available. The following are some of the more common types of snare locks. A deer stop <u>and</u> a break away device of 285 pounds or less is required with all types of locks on a Michigan snare.



This is one of the more commonly used snare locks. It is called a washer lock. A deer stop and 285 pounds or less break-away device is required with this lock on a Michigan snare.

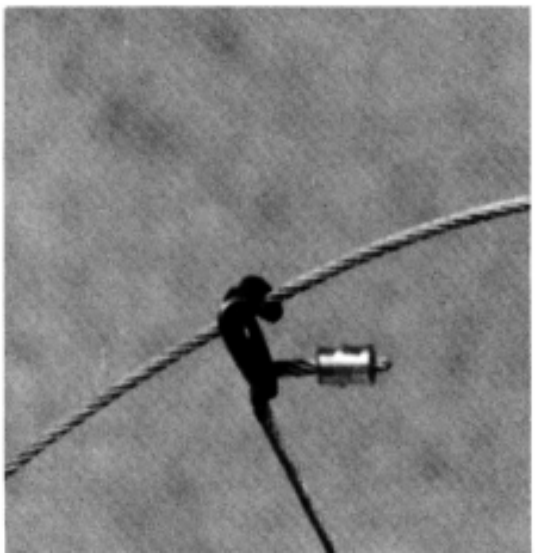


This is an “L” lock. It functions in the same manner as a washer lock. A deer stop and 285 pounds or less break-away device is required with this lock.



This is a “Thompson” style lock. This lock was one of the earliest locks developed for use with multi- strand steel cable. There are several other brand-name locks that follow this design. This lock also requires a deer stop and break-away device.

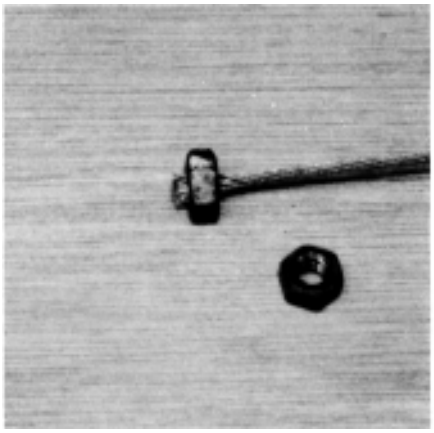
# Locks (continued)



This is a “Reichart” lock. It is made from a bent washer. A deer stop and break-away device is required with this lock.

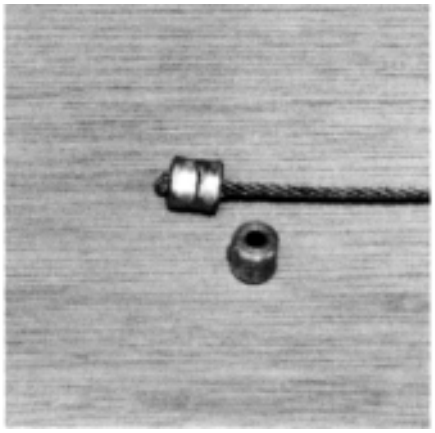
# Ferrules

Ferrules are used to hold the lock on a snare. They are also used to hold the swivel on a snare or form an end fastener on the snare. The ferrules are hammered or crimped onto the snare cable.

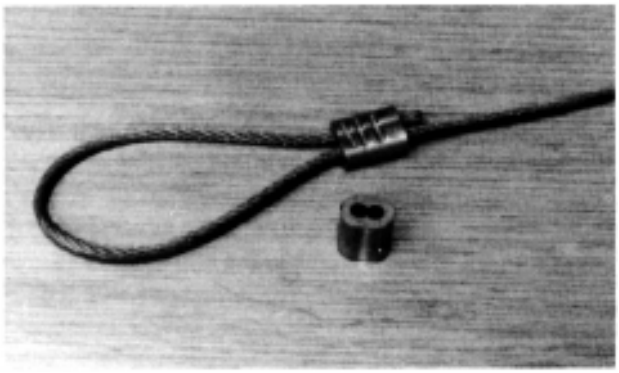


Special steel nuts are often used as ferrules. These nuts are heat treated to keep them from cracking when they are hammered on.

Another type of ferrule is made of coiled steel wire. The coil is slipped over the cable and hammered in place.



This ferrule is made of aluminum and is called a single aluminum ferrule. It is designed to hold one piece of cable.



This is a double aluminum ferrule. It is used to form a loop on the end of a snare cable.

# Swivels

It is required in Michigan that a snare be equipped with at least two swivels, one of which must be at the anchor point. The swivel provides a means for fastening the snare in place and also provides some comfort to the animal. Swivels also help keep the snare cable from getting too badly kinked and twisted while the animal is detained in the snare. If a cable gets badly kinked and twisted, there is a possibility it could break allowing the animal to escape.

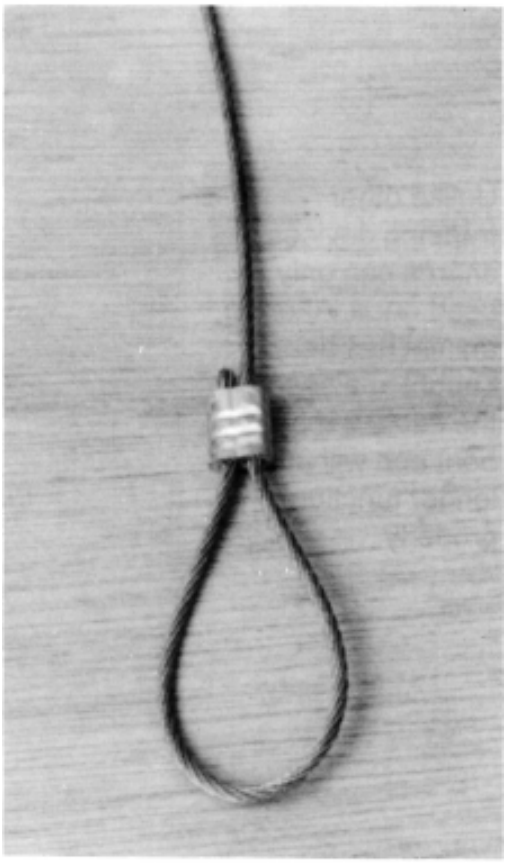
Swivels for snares are most commonly made out of wire. These are some typical examples of wire snare swivels.A small washer is placed on the cable to keep the swivel from binding against the end ferrule.

Swivels for snares are most commonly made out of wire. These are some typical examples of wire snare swivels.

A small washer is placed on the cable to keep the swivel from binding against the end ferrule.

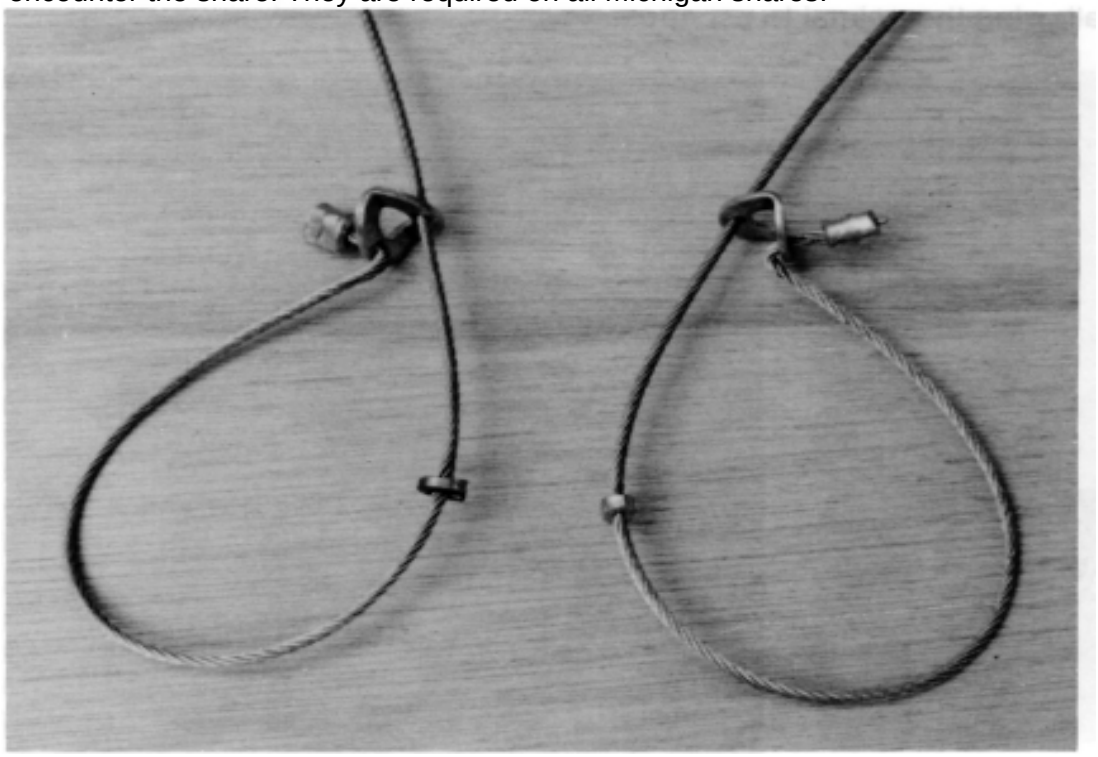
This snare swivel is made of stamped metal. Any type of swiveling device can be used for a snare swivel.

(Right) Some snares are equipped with simple loops on the end for fastening, however this is not recommended. You could, however, fasten a box-type swivel to the loop to provide for swiveling.



# Deer Stops

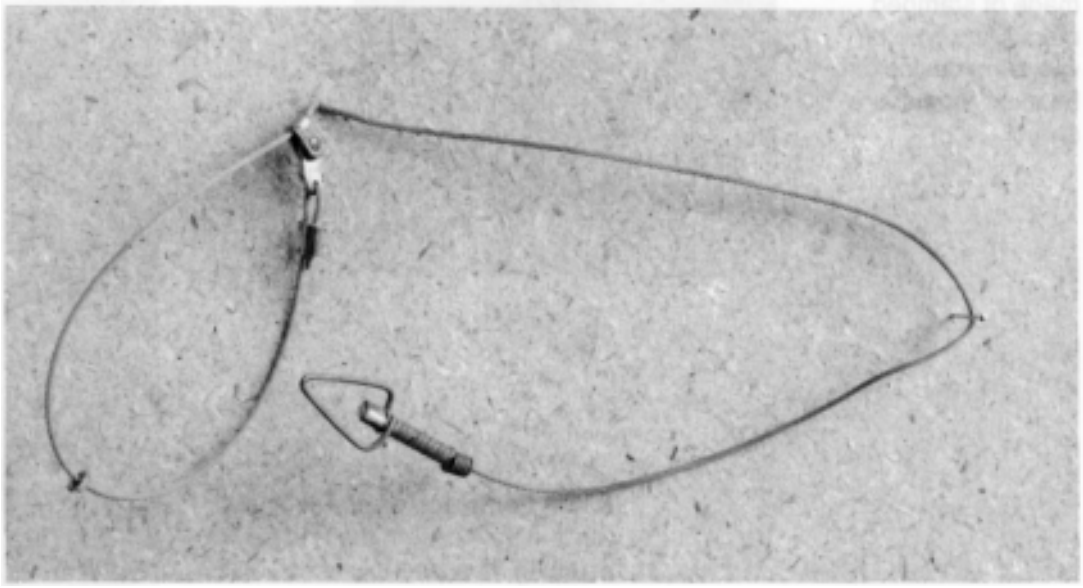
Deer stops are installed on snares to prevent the loop from closing past a minimum 4 1/4 inch diameter in Michigan. This will prevent the snare from closing around a deer's foot if one of these animals should accidently encounter the snare. They are required on all Michigan snares.



Deer stops are installed by crimping the stop onto the cable. At the left is a type of stop that can be added after the snare is assembled. At the right is a small nut used as a stop. It must be placed on the cable as the snare is assembled. The deer stop keeps the lock from going past a certain point and keeps the snare from closing down completely.

# A Used Snare

Unlike other trapping devices, snares can only be used once. After an animal has been caught in a snare, the cable will be bent and will no longer function properly.



# Michigan Fox & Coyote Snaring Regulations

It is important to remember that all the Michigan regulations which apply to trapping also apply to using snares. Snares must have a metal tag showing the name and address of the user or Michigan driver license number. Snares are considered to be restraining type traps and must be checked once each day in Zones 2 and 3 and once within each 48-hour period in Zone 1.

You should always check the "Michigan Hunting and Trapping Guide" for current information concerning the use of snares and traps. Besides the general trapping regulations, there are some specific regulations that apply to using terrestrial snares in Michigan. They are as follows:

1. You may only use terrestrial snares on private land from January 1 to March 1 to take fox and coyotes. Snares may not be set on publicly owned land or commercial forest lands.

2. A snare must be constructed of 1 / 16 inch or larger cable.

3. A snare may not be set with a loop size greater than 15 inches in diameter.

4. The top of a snare loop cannot be set more than 24 inches above the ground. When the ground is snow covered, the top of the loop may not be set more than 24 inches above the compacted snow, which is established by your footprint, placed beneath the snare, with your full body weight.

All the general regulations that apply to trapping apply to snares as well. For example, all snares must have a metal tag bearing the user's name and address or Michigan driver license number. Also, snares, like other restraining type traps, must be checked once each day in zones 2 and 3 and once within each 48 hour period in Zone 1.

All the general regulations that apply to trapping apply to snares as well. For example, all snares must have a metal tag bearing the user's name and address or Michigan driver license number.

5. A snare must have:

a relaxing lock, defined as a mechanical snare lock that allows the snare loop to loosen slightly in order to reduced the possibility of strangulation.;

a deer stop to prevent the loop from closing to a diameter less than 4 ¼ inches; and

the snare must have a breakaway devise that breaks away at a force of 285 pounds or less. Breakaway devises must be attached to the relaxing lock.

6. A snare must be affixed to an immovable object or stake. Snares cannot be used on a drag.

7. Snares may be anchored to woody vegetation provided that the stem is free of branches and stubs to a height of 5 feet above the ground or compacted snow. Branches and stubs must be cut flush with the outer bark of the stem.

8. A snare must be equipped with two swivels, one of which is an anchor swivel.

9. A snare cannot use any type of spring pole, counter balance weight, spring or other device to assist in its closing.
10. Snares may not be attached to a fence or set in a manner where an animal in the snare can become entangled in a fence.
11. Snares may not be set in a manner that would allow a snared animal to be suspended with 2 or more feet off the ground.

Landowner permission is required to trap on fenced or posted lands or farm property and wooded areas connected to farm property.

A Michigan snare cannot have any kind of powering device to pull the loop closed. It is not legal to attach the snare to a spring pole or any other power source.
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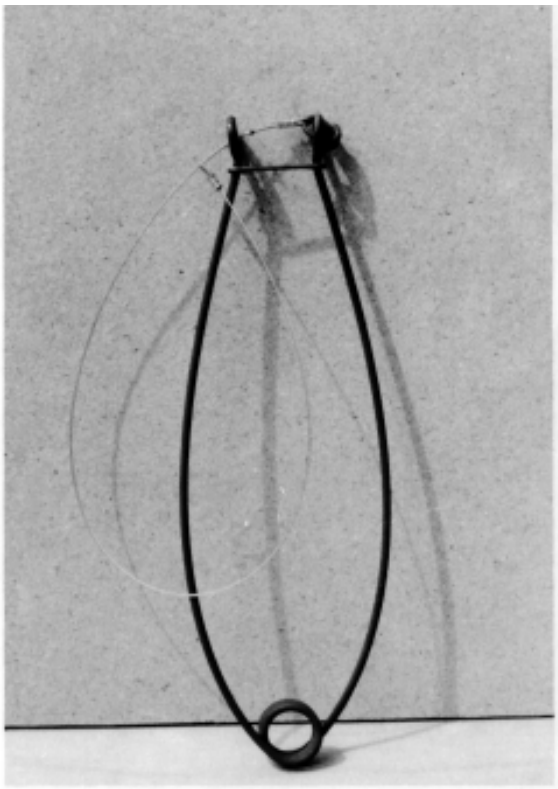
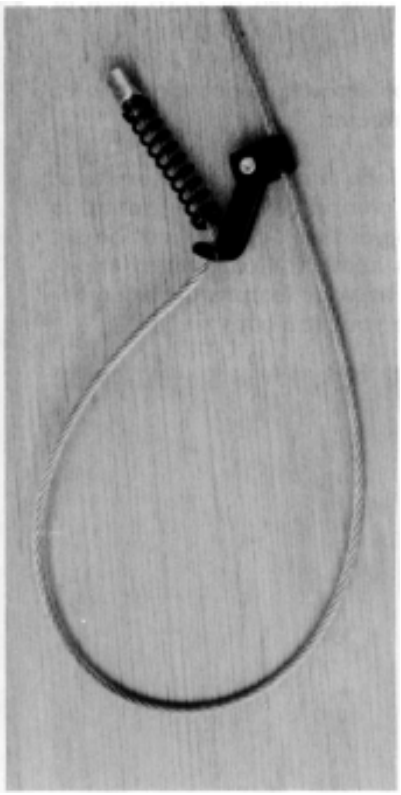


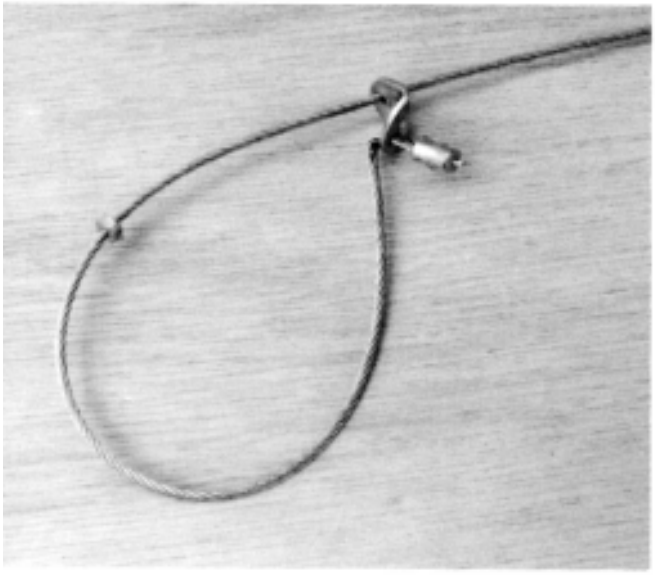


A Michigan snare must have a relaxing lock. This means the lock must stop closing when the animal stops pulling on it, and then loosen slightly to prevent stragulation. This lock has a spring to keep pushing the loop tight and would not be legal for use in Michigan.

This is a spring powered snare. It would not be legal for use in Michigan.

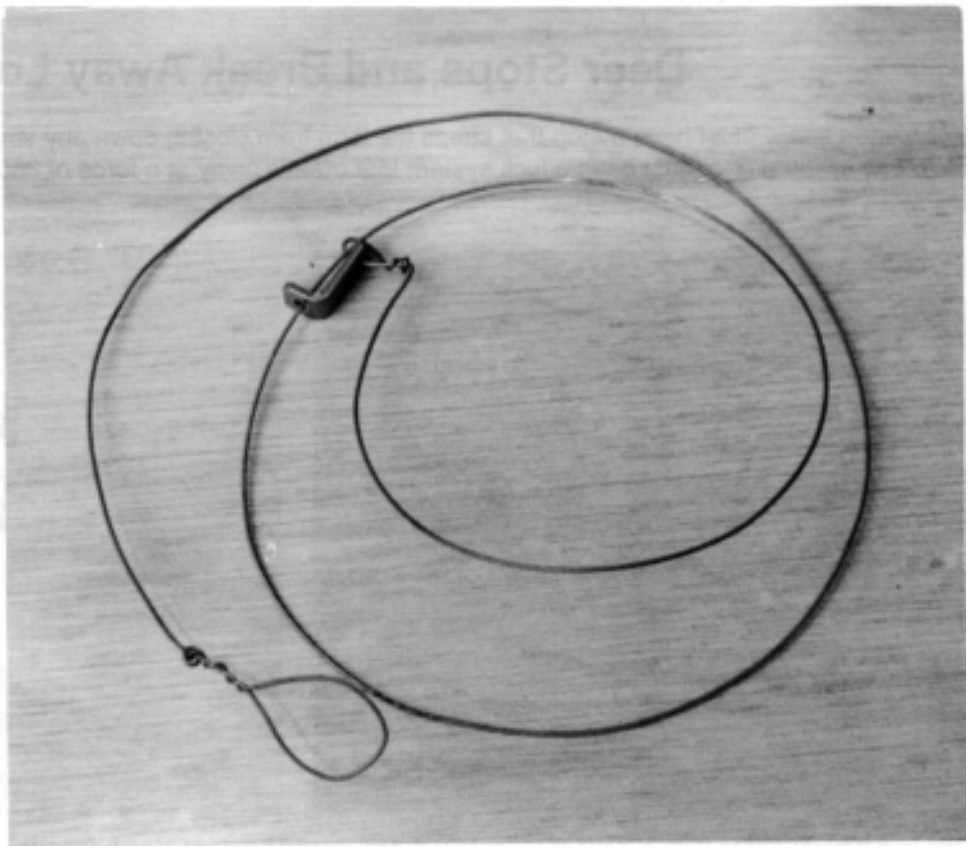
# Deer Stops and Break Away Locks

A Michigan snare must have a stop that keeps the loop from closing down any smaller than 4 1/4 inches in diameter. In addition, the snare must have a lock system that breaks away at a force of 285 pounds or less.



This is a typical snare with a deer stop installed. A lock system that breaks at a force of 285 pounds or less would also be required for this snare to be legal in Michigan.

Michigan snares must be made of steel cable 1/16 inch diameter or greater. This snare is made of wire and is not legal for Michigan use.



Snares must be fastened to an ummovable object. This snare is fastened to a drag. This is not legal in Michigan.

# How A Snare Works

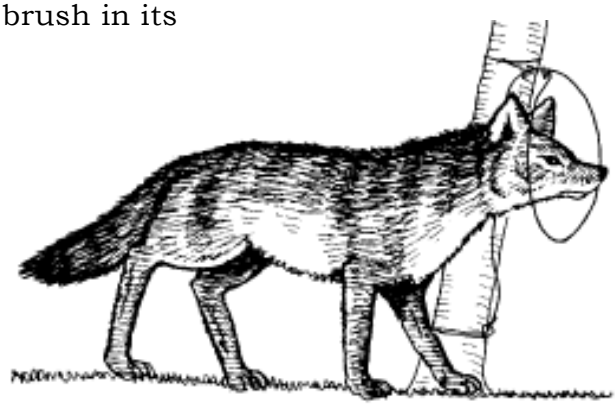
There may be some questions as to how a snare works if there is no powering device to close the snare loop. The fact is, the animal itself provides the power to close the snare.

In use, the snare loop is suspended above a trail or path the animal is expected to take. The animal, walking along, enters the snare loop and continues its forward progress pulling the snare down on itself.

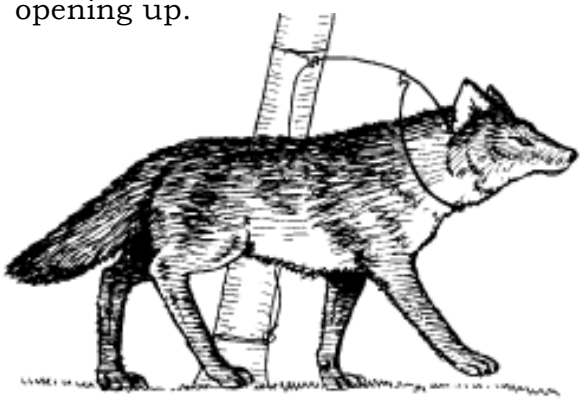
On the surface, this may sound odd, but if you take into consideration how an animal travels through its environment and the conditions it meets there, this becomes more understandable.

As an animal travels along, it regularly encounters weeds, vines, and small pieces of brush in its path. An animal does not make a detour every time it encounters one of these objects. Instead, it simply pushes its way through the obstruction. If by some chance the animal cannot muscle its way through, it will then back up and make a detour.

An animal perceives a snare in the same manner that it perceives a vine or weed. It does not recognize the snare as a danger. On encountering the snare, the animal behaves as if the snare were just another vine or weed and tries to push its way on through. When it finds it cannot break free of the "vine" the animal will try to back out. However at this point, the snare is cinched down on the animal, and the lock keeps the snare from opening up.

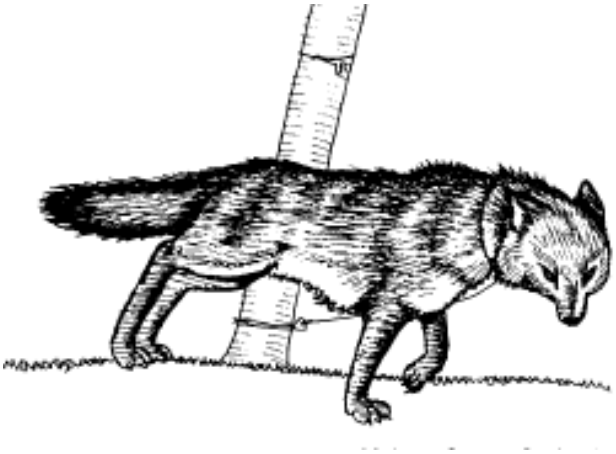


The snare loop is positioned over a trail the animal is expected to take. The animal is not alarmed by the snare because it resembles a vine. The animal enters the snare with its nose guiding it through the loop.



The animal continues its forward progress. The snare loop strikes its chest and starts to close.

The animal pushes forward tightening the snare down on itself. The lock holds the loop closed, and the animal cannot escape.



# Fastening and Stabilizing Snares

Like any other trapping device, a snare must be fastened in place to hold the animal while it is detained in the snare. Michigan regulations require that a snare be fastened to a solid, immovable object or that it be staked.

One easy way to fasten a snare is to stake it in place as you would a foothold trap. Make sure the stake is long enough and strong enough to hold any animal that might get in the snare. Wood stakes can be used for snares, but many trappers prefer to use steel stakes because they are more durable.

Michigan regulations require that a snare be equipped with two swivels including an anchor swivel that provides swiveling at the stake as you would for a foothold trap. With a wood stake, the anchore swivel itself may provide the swiveling action you need. Some snare swivels are designed to accept a steel stake right through the swivel. You also have the option of fastening a regular stake swivel or s-hook to the end of the snare to provide for use with a steel stake.

For coyotes, you may want to consider using a cross-stake system to hold the snare. The same devices used to cross stake foothold traps can be used to cross stake a snare.

The other option for fastening a snare is to anchor it to an immovable object. Usually this comes in the form of a tree or a large log that the animal cannot move. If the anticipated path of the target animal comes close to a tree or a log, this would be a good place to construct a set.

To fasten a snare to a tree or log use a piece of heavy gauge wire to completely encircle the trunk. Pass the wire through the snare swivel and twist it closed. If you anchor your snare to woody vegetation, you must ensure that all branches and stubs are removed up to 5 feet above the ground or compacted snow. Cut the branches and stubs flush with the outer bark of the stem.

Snares in Michigan are limited to a length of 60 inches. Sometimes a snare is not quite long enough to reach the object that you want to fasten it to. In this case, you should use a cable anchoring extension made of snare cable to lengthen the snare. This extension may be up to 36 inches in length. You can purchase these or make them using a length of cable and forming a loop in each end. NEVER use wire to extend a snare. A wire snare extension could easily kink and break as the animal struggles in the snare.

Another aspect of getting a snare in place is stabilizing the snare so it hangs in the proper position. A snare must be supported so that the loop hangs vertically and will be in the proper position to intercept the animal.

The best way to do this is with a piece of wire. One end of the wire is fastened to the snare cable and the other end of the wire is anchored solidly. Bending the wire allows you to position the snare. In attaching the wire to the snare, there are several options. You can bend a small hook in the wire and crimp this onto the snare cable. However, crimping the wire to the snare may interfere with the action of the swivel. Another way to attach the wire to the snare is to bend the end of the wire into the shape of an “N” and thread the snare cable into it. Some snares are equipped with coiled wire support collars that will accept a certain size wire. Here the wire is slid under the support collar where it pinches against the cable.

For the anchored end of the stabilizer wire, you can wrap the wire around a stake or wrap it around a tree or log, especially if you have fastened your snare to this object. One option is to leave a long tail on the fastening wire and use this tail to support the snare. You can also anchor the end of the support wire by spearing it into the ground.

Wire in size 11 or 12 gauge, or larger, is best for fastening and stabilizing snares. It is illegal to use wire to extend the length of a snare. When an animal is detained in a snare, it has the use of all four feet and can pull hard against the fastening. If wire gets kinked and bent, it can readily break. If you need to extend the length of a snare, use a piece of snare cable with a loop formed in each end. The cable is designed to hold up under the struggles of the animal.

# Fastening Snares

Snares must be solidly anchored to hold the captured animal. Michigan law requires that snares be fastened to a solid, immovable object; or the snare may be staked.

Using a stake is a good way to fasten a snare. Steel stakes often serve better for land trapping because they are more durable. This snare has a swivel that will fit on the stake.

If the snare swivel does not fit well on the stake, you can use a regular stake swivel and fasten it to the snare. Here a box swivel is used. An s-hook would also work.

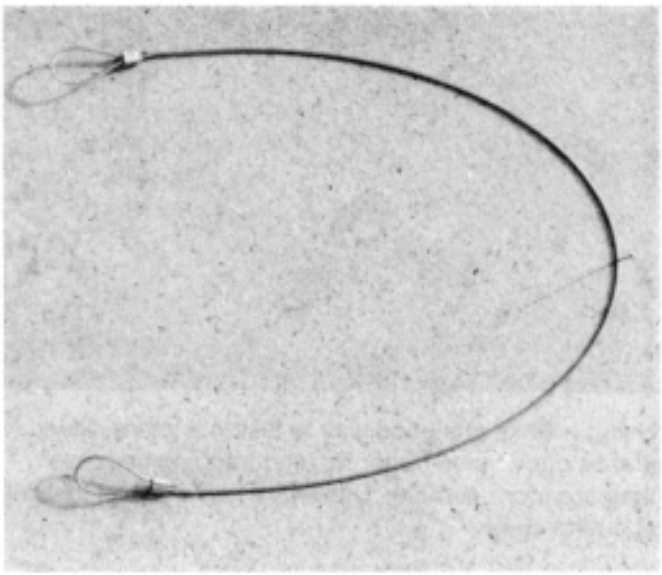
Snares can also be fastened to solid, immobable objects. This snare is fastened to a log.

The stake system must be strong enough to hold the largest animal that can get in the snare. In poor soil conditions it may be necessary to use a cross-stake system.

A large tree makes a good, solid anchor for a snare. The tree must be clear of branches or stubs up to 5 feet above the ground or compacted snow.

# **Fastening Snares** (continued)

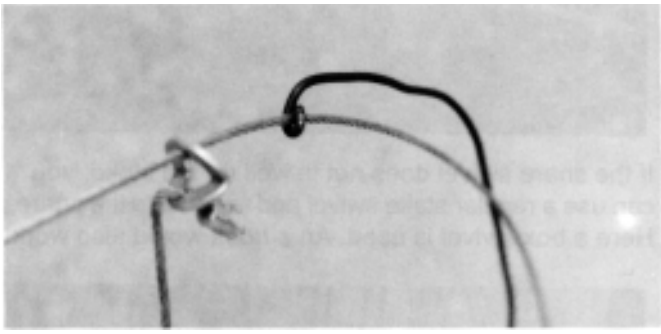
Use a length of heavy gauge wire wrapped around the object to fasten the snare. Pass the wire through the snare swivel.



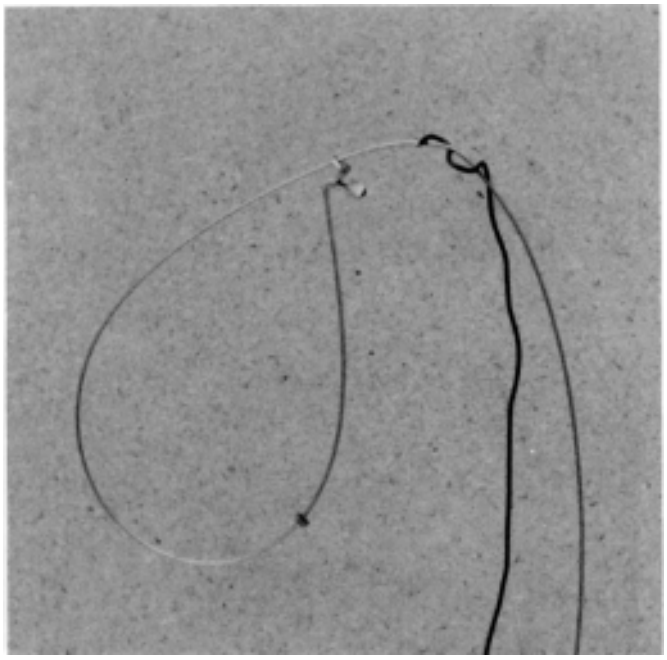
If you need to extend the length of a snare, use an extension made of snare cable. NEVER use wire for extending a snare. Cable extensions may be up to 36” in length

## Stabilizing Snares

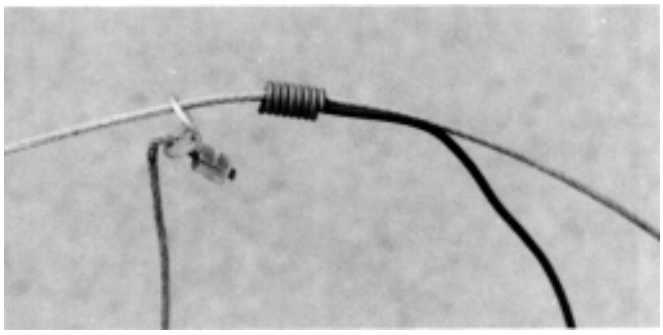
To function properly, the snare loop must be held in a fixed position to intercept the animal. Heavy gauge wire works bext for stabilibzing snares. One end of the wire is affixed to the snare, and the other end of the wire is anchored to make it stable.



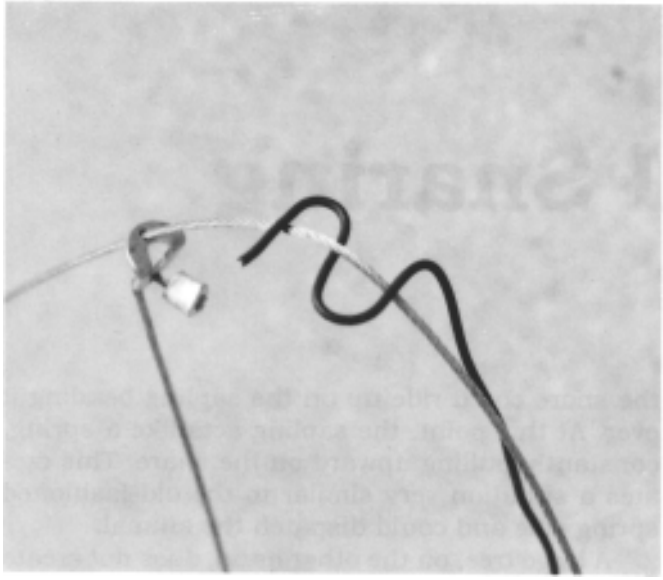
One method for fastening the wire to the cable is to make a small bend in the end of the wire and crimp it onto the snare. However, this wire may interfere with the swivel because it is crimped on the cable.



A support, or stabilizer, wire is used to hold the snare loop in position.



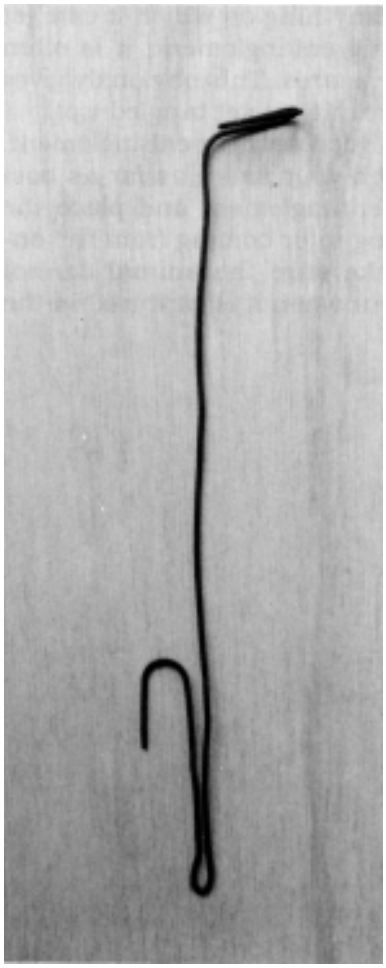
Some snares are equipped with wire collars. The stabilizer wire is inserted inside the support collar. However, these support collars are designed to take only a certain size wire.. Usually they are made to use 9 gauge wire.



This  is another way to fasten a stabilizer wire to a snare. The end of the wire is bent into the shape of an “N” and the snare cable is threaded into it.

One way to anchor the support wire is to fasten it to a small stake as in this example. The wire could also be fastened to the stake you use to hold the snare.

Another way to anchor the support wire is to tie it around the object to which you have fastened the snare. Here, a long tail was left on the fastening wire to make the snare support wire.



(Left) You can make a support wire that is self standing by doubling the end of the wire then bending a short hook at the tip.

(Right) The doubled end of the wire is pushed into the ground. The hook catches in the ground to keep the wire from spinning around.

# Non-lethal Snaring

The old fashioned spring pole snare was intentionally designed and rigged to dispatch any animal that got in it. The modern cable snare does not have to be used in this manner because it is made of better and stronger materials. It can be used as a non-lethal capture device. If an animal detained in a snare is given some freedom of movement, it is very unlikely that the animal can or will pull hard enough on the snare to asphyxiate itself. Here, the animal behaves much in the same manner as a pet dog that is leashed with a choker chain. However, under certain conditions and in certain situations, a cable snare can become a lethal device.

Whether or not a snare is lethal is not so much a function of the snare itself, but it is more a matter of where the snare is placed. If an animal captured in a snare gets itself in a position where its feet cannot touch the ground, the results would be much the same as if it were pulled up by a spring pole. It could succumb to asphyxiation.

This can happen if an animal gets tangled up in something at a set and cannot get its feet back on the ground. This situation is commonly known as entanglement. By avoiding entanglement situations, you can be relatively certain that your snares will function in a non-lethal manner. It is illegal to set snares in a manner where the snared animal could become entangled in a fence, or could become entangled in woody vegetation so that it is suspended with two or more legs off the ground.

A classic entanglement situation can be found where a snare is set under a fence. An animal captured in this snare could possibly climb through or jump over the fence and become entangled. In Michigan, a snare may not be set attached to a fence or in such a manner that an animal could become entangled in a fence. A similar situation exists where a snare is set in a patch of brush. An animal could get the snare tangled up in the brush, be suspended, and asphyxiate.

Another, less obvious entanglement situation can occur if there is a very small sapling tree in the vicinity of the snare. An animal could get tangled around the sapling, and as the animal struggles the snare could ride up on the sapling bending it over. At this point, the sapling acts like a spring, constantly pulling upward on the snare. This creates a situation very similar to the old-fashioned spring pole and could dispatch the animal.

A large tree, on the other hand, usually does not create an entanglement situation. An animal cannot bend over a large tree, and in most instances the animal will not get tangled up on the tree because it cannot circle the tree with the snare any more than once or twice. Make sure that the tree is free of branches or stubs that the animal could be hung from. The tree should be free of branches or stubs up to a height of 5 feet above the ground or compacted snow.

The chance of encountering a domestic animal is always present. For this reason, you should always avoid entanglement with your snares.

When you get ready to place a snare, examine the area for entanglement. It is a good idea to extend the snare in its closed position and circle it around from its fastening point to make sure an animal cannot reach anything on which it can get tangled up. In avoiding entanglement, it is often helpful to use shorter snares. This obviously gives the animal less opportunity to get tangled up.

If you encounter a good set near entanglement, such as a fence, fasten your snare as far as possible away from the entanglement and place the loop in the trail leading to or coming from the entanglement. Just make sure the animal cannot reach the entanglement when it is captured in the snare.

# Entanglement Situations

Snares placed in entanglement situations can be lethal. Avoid entanglement situations . Dogs or other domestic animals caught in snares should be reported to the DNR Rap Hotline 1-800-292-7800.

Fences are very likely to create entanglement for a snare. An animal captured in the snare may climb over and through the fence wire and be suspended off the ground. This type of set is illegal in Michigan.

Brush can create an entanglement situation for an animal almost in the same manner as a fence. If an animal climbs into the brush it could get the snare tangled up and not be able to get its feet back on the ground.

A small tree or sapling within reach of the snare can also create a lethal situation. If an animal gets the snare around the sapling and bends it over, the sapling will pull up on the snare cable and could asphyxiate the animal. You can see that this is almost like the old fashioned spring pole snare.

# Avoiding Entanglement

It is easy to avoid entanglement. Simply place your snares in clear areas where there is nothing substantial for the animal to tangle up in.

A large tree does not create an entanglement situation. The animal can hardly make more than one revolution around the tree and does not get tangled up. When fastening to trees, keep the wire low on the tree. This helps ensure that the animal can keep its feet on the ground. Any branches or stubs on the anchor tree should be cut flush with the outer bark up to 5' above the ground or compacted snow

When placing a snare where entanglement is nearby, stake or fasten the snare away from the entanglement. Then reach out with the closed snare and circle it around the fastener to make sure the animal cannot reach the entanglement.

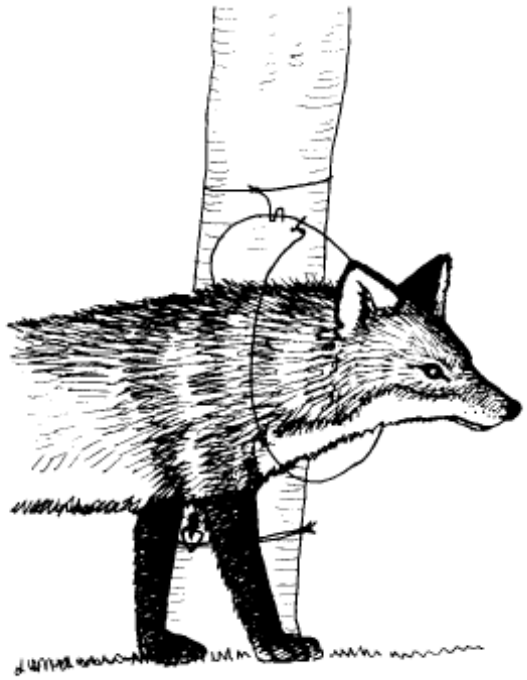
# Setting Snares

To set a snare, the looped end of the snare is suspended over a trail or path that the animal is expected to use. The animal enters the snare, sticking its head through the loop, and through its forward progress draws the snare down on itself. Fox and coyotes have a long tapered head that is very wide just behind their ears. When a snare closes on their neck it is very unlikely they will be able to slip out of it or remove it. In this case, it is better to snare these animals by the neck.

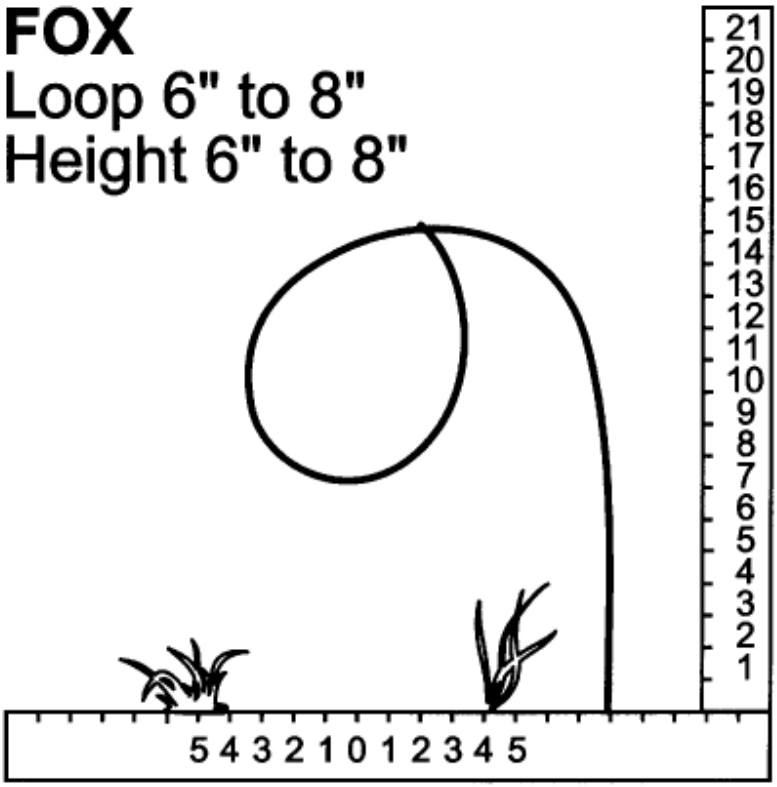
There are two major considerations in setting a snare to target a specific animal - the size of the loop and the distance from the bottom of the loop to the ground. In making these determinations you must consider the size of the animal, the height of the animal's head above the ground (generally determined by the length of its legs) and whether it is best to catch the animal by the neck or by the body.

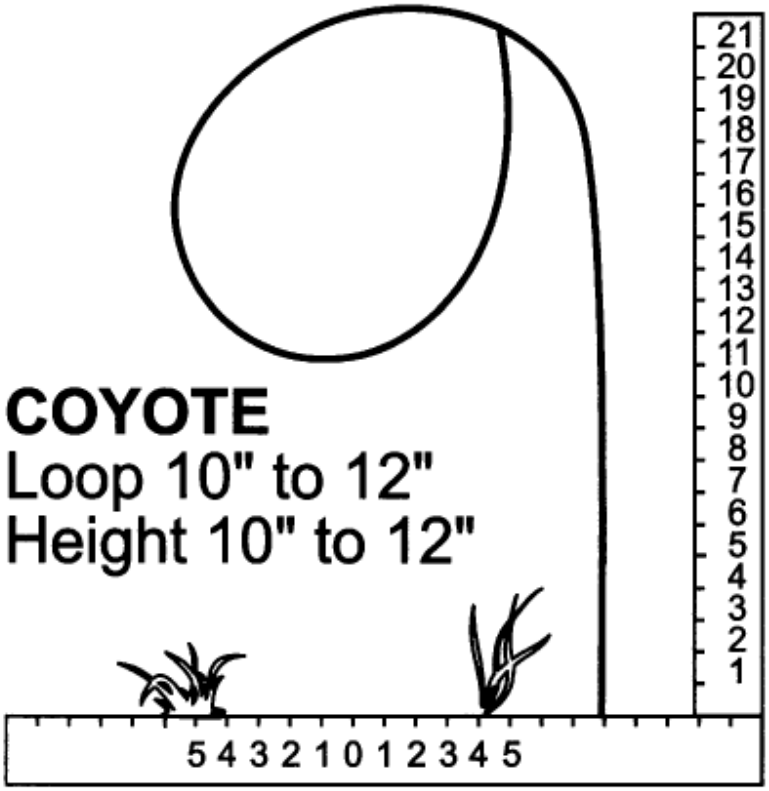
For an animal you want to snare by the neck, the snare loop should be just large enough to admit the animal's head. The snare should be positioned so that the bottom of the loop strikes the animal's chest at the base of the neck after its head goes through the loop.

To snare an animal by the body, you need a loop big enough to admit the front portion of the animal's body. The loop must be low enough to the ground so that the animal can step through it, but high enough to strike the animal's chest after the animal steps through the snare.



In snaring fox and coyotes the snare is positioned to catch the animal around the neck. The loop should be large enough to comfortably admit the animal's head. It should be positioned low enough to clear the animal's chin, but high enough so the animal does not step through it.


FOX
Loop 6" to 8"
Height 6" to 8"
21 20 19 18 17 16 15 14 13 12 11 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1
5 4 3 2 1 0 1 2 3 4 5


COYOTE
Loop 10" to 12"
Height 10" to 12"
21 20 19 18 17 16 15 14 13 12 11 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1
5 4 3 2 1 0 1 2 3 4 5

# Avoiding Deer and Livestock

While your snares will be set to take furbearing animals, the possibility exists that larger animals like deer or livestock could get tangled up in your snare. This usually happens when the animal is walking along and gets its foot through the snare loop.

Some of the Michigan regulations are designed to deal with this problem. In regards to deer, Michigan snares must employ two features. The first is a stop on the cable that prevents the loop from closing past a diameter of 4 1/4 inches. This would allow a deer to shake the snare off its foot. The second feature is to use a lock or lock system that will break away from the snare cable at 285 pounds or less. This would allow a deer to break the lock as it pulls against the snare.

These regulations are designed to minimize the potential for detaining a large animal in your snare. Still the best way to avoid deer and livestock is to avoid setting your snares where these animals are likely to be encountered.

You should not set snares within the confines of a pasture where livestock is present. Deer are free roaming, wild animals, but you can take measures to avoid catching them in your snares. Do not set snares on trails that show frequent or heavy use by deer.

There are other instances when you may want to set a snare on a trail that is not regularly used by deer, but still the possibility exists that a deer might take that trail. In this case, you can construct the set to make the deer avoid your snare. The best way to do this is to place a pole over your snare. The pole should be about the size of your wrist or larger. You can place the pole horizontally over your snare and support it on each end. This gives the appearance of the goal posts on a football field. With the pole just above the snare, the deer will jump or step over the pole, while the target animal will go under the pole and into the snare.

Another option is to use a “leaning” pole to steer the deer away from your snare. This is best accomplished where the trail passes close to a tree and the snare is fastened to the tree. Here, you can lean a pole against the tree at an angle with the snare between the pole and the tree. A deer will walk around the outside of the pole and avoid the snare. Make sure there is room on the outside of the pole for the deer to detour around it.

In each of these cases, the pole should be propped up so that it will not fall down easily. However, the pole should not be wired or permanently fastened in place because it could create an entanglement situation for the animal. The animal should be able to knock the pole over if it gets the snare around it.

Do not set snares in the confines of a pasture where livestock is present.

Avoid setting snares in trails that show heavy use by deer. In trails that do not show deer activity but might be used by deer at some time, you can set up objects that will guide the deer away from your snare.  Here a pole is leaned against the tree to make the deer step off to one side. In using this method, make sure there is room on the outside of the pole for the deer to pass.

Here a pole is laid horizontally over the snare. If a deer encounters this pole, it will jump ove the pole and miss the snare. This is sometimes called a “jump pole”. Do not fasten these poles in place too solidly, or they may create an entanglement situation. An animal caught in the snare should be able to knock these poles down.

# Sets with Snares

Snaring requires a minimum amount of equipment for constructing sets. You need snares, wire with which to fasten and stabilize the snares, and pliers for cutting and twisting the wire. You will also need stakes and a hammer if you are going to fasten your snares this way. Another tool that you may need is a set of cable cutters. These cutters are specially designed to cut steel cable. It is nearly impossible to cut this cable with any type of regular pliers.

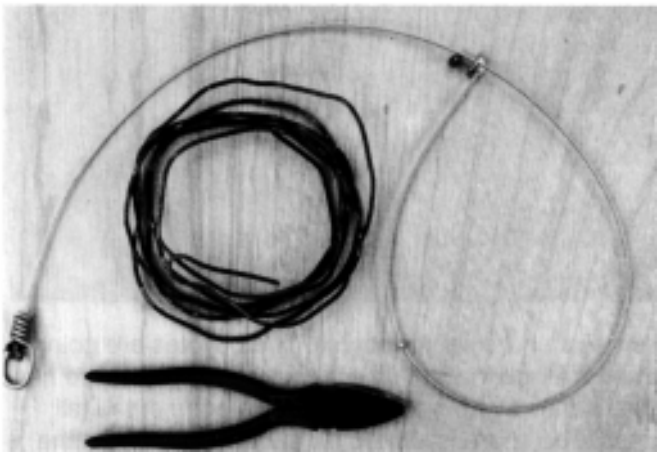
While other trapping devices, like foothold and body-grip traps, can be used over and over again to catch animals, snares can be used only once. After an animal has been held in the snare, the cable will be bent and twisted, and the snare will no longer function properly. It is possible to use the hardware from the snare, like the lock and swivel, and make another snare using a new piece of cable, ferrules, and deer stop if necessary. Snares and snare components are available from trapping supply dealers.

The principles for constructing a set with a snare are somewhat different than those often applied with other trapping devices. Often trappers use bait or lure to get an animal to stop where the trap is set. Snares depend on an animal's continued forward progress to tighten down the snare loop. A set with a snare is basically a trail or blind set. You should not use lure or bait in close proximity of your snare or use anything else that would make an animal stop or hesitate as it approaches and enters the snare.

The following are examples of sets that can be made with snares. For these depictions, the snares have been painted white to make them easier for you to see. In actual practice, you would not use a white snare unless you were trapping in snow. To remove the shine from new snares and make them less visible, boil the snares for about a half-hour in a baking soda solution.

Snaring does not require a lot of equipment. You need snares, a roll of wire for fastening and stabilizing your snares, and pliers for cutting and bending the wire.

If you are going to do much snaring, you should invest in a set of cable cutters. These will cut snare cable quickly and cleanly. It is very difficult to cut snare cable with regular pliers.



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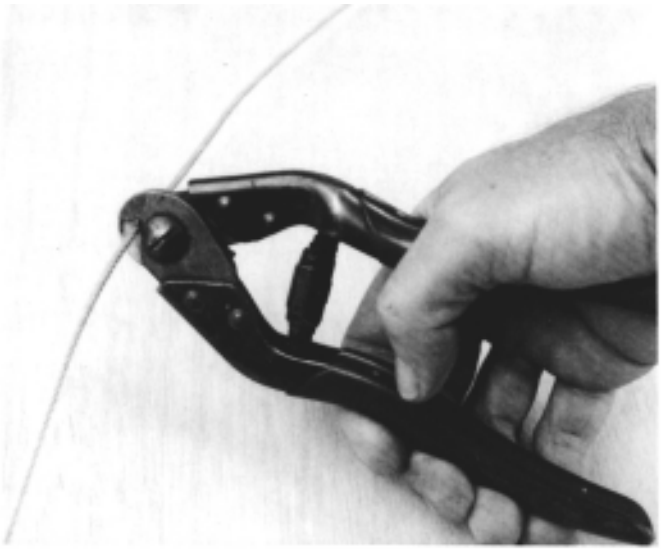

If you are going to do much snaring, you should invest in a set of cable cutters. These will cut snare cable quickly and cleanly. It is very difficult to cut snare cable with regular pliers.

Here is a snare set for coyote. The coyotes are going under a fence that is in the background. The snare has been set away from the fence at the edge of the tall grass. The snare is staked far enough waway from the fence that any animal caught in it will not be able to reach the fence.

Here is a set for fox made in the woods on a trail. A pole has been leaned over the snare in case a deer comes down the trail. There is nothing within reach of the snare for the animal to tangle up on.