Construction of the Shoebox Track Box

Materials needed:
- Shoeboxes or other rectangular boxes that have a removable lid
- Contact paper
- White or wheat flour, unsweetened KoolAid mix—contrasting to your contact paper color (beware items toxic to animals like cocoa)
- Sifter or sieve
- Tape
- Attractive bait in small, individual pieces (ex: nuts, cereal, seeds, corn)

Step 1
Select the size of your box based on the size of the creature you are trying to attract. Cut a small hole at one end of the box. Recommended target sizes are mice, voles, shrews, and maybe chipmunks. (Anything larger will likely dismantle the trapless box "trap" to get to the bait rather than politely entering through the hole provided.)

Step 2
Measure contact paper to fit the bottom of the box. Cut piece in half horizontally to fit the "front" and "back" of the box.

Step 3
At the rear end of the box (away from the hole opening), place contact paper STICKY SIDE UP. Toward the front at the opening, place contact paper STICKY SIDE DOWN. Overlap the front paper with rear paper to help secure its position. You should now have a box with a dry, slippery surface in the front and a sticky adhesive surface in the back.

Step 4
Take your "shoebox track box" out to the location where you hope to attract your creature into your trapless trap. Place your shoebox where you intend to leave it unattended for a few hours or overnight. Lift the lid off your shoebox and prepare to sift your powdery substance over the dry, slippery surface, carefully avoiding the sticky surface.

Step 5
Place the bait at the rear end of the shoebox on the sticky surface. Without moving the box (this is difficult), replace the lid and gently tape the lid onto the box. Walk away from the box! Animals that are attracted by the bait will walk through the powdery substance and across the sticky surface toward the bait, leaving their powdery footprints behind. They will continue until the bait is gone, leaving a "heavy traffic pattern" to and fro.