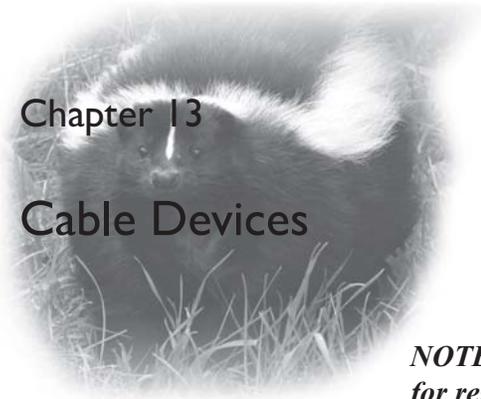


Chapter 13

Cable Devices



NOTE: Please see the current Michigan Hunting and Trapping Guide for regulations and the Michigan Fox and Coyote Non-Lethal Snaring Manual for more detailed information.



Content Standard - Students demonstrate an understanding of cable devices, and responsible techniques for using them



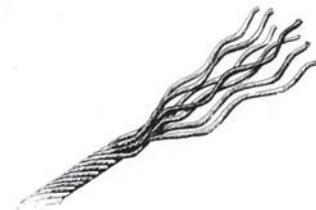
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Non-Powered Cable Device.

Introduction

Responsible trappers can use cable devices to make selective sets for many furbearers. Animals often travel the same trails and paths on a regular basis. Locations where the trail narrows are good places to set cable devices. Place cable devices correctly in the center of the line of travel, so the targeted furbearer will walk into it. Furbearers are accustomed to walking through weeds and brush, so cable devices do not alarm them.

Identify cable device equipment and materials



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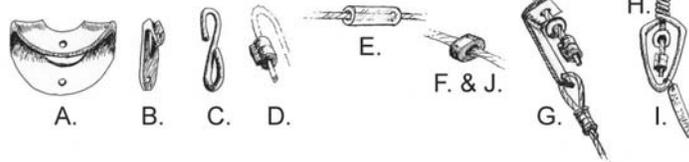
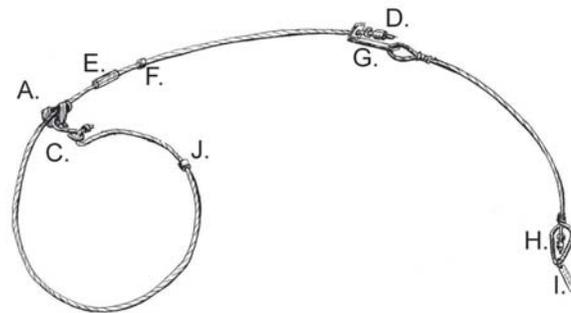
Multi-strand steel cable - Used in modern cable devices.



7x7 Cable.



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7x19 Cable.



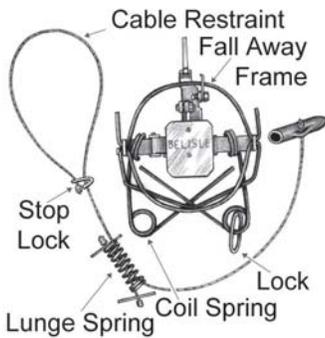
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- A. Relaxing Lock
- B. Non-Relaxing Lock
- C. J-Hook Breakaway Device
- D. End Ferrule
- E. Stabilizer Tube
- F. Maximum Loop Stop
- G. Inline Swivel
- H. End Swivel
- I. Trap Tag
- J. Deer Stop



Ohio DOW Photos

Cable swivel and ferrule.



Joe Goodman

Unset Spring-activated Cable Device.



Coil-Spring Activated Cable Device.

Breakaway Devices

- A. Breakaway Ferrule
- B. Breakaway Hook

Cable Devices

Modern cable devices are made from stranded steel cable. Various sizes are used, but 3/32" is popular. State trapping regulations may require you to use a specific size of cable.

Non-Powered Cable Device

A non-powered cable device uses forward movement of an animal to place and close the loop on its body or neck.

Powered Cable Device *(Note: Not Legal to Use in Michigan)*

The powered cable device uses a mechanical feature, such as a spring, to place or close the loop of the cable on an animal's body or limb. An example of a powered cable device is the coil-spring activated Belisle™ cable device, which uses a foothold-like pan system to activate springs that place and tighten a cable around the captured animal's foot.

Relaxing Lock

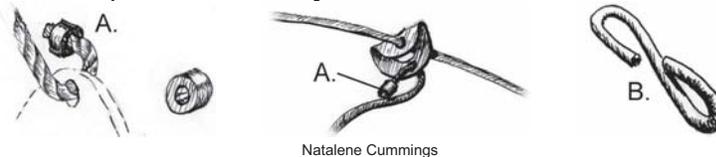
A relaxing lock will move in either direction on the cable. When an animal pulls against the device it tightens, drawing the loop smaller. If an animal does not pull against the device, it relaxes. Animals can be released unharmed from cable devices with relaxing locks set as restraining systems on land. Many types of relaxing locks are available. Some relaxing locks are made to break at a given strength, allowing larger animals such as deer to escape.

Non-Relaxing Lock

A non-relaxing lock keeps a cable from loosening after an animal is caught. It will close the cable loop tighter when pulled, but it will not relax when tension stops.

Breakaway Devices

Many states, including Michigan, require that trappers use breakaway devices to allow deer, livestock, or other large mammals to escape. Breakaway devices are parts of a cable system that allow an animal to escape from the loop if the animal pulls against it with sufficient force. Ferrules, S-hooks, and J-hooks are examples of breakaway devices.



Stops

Trapping regulations require use of a "stop" to prevent a cable loop from closing below a certain diameter. Some trappers call them "deer" stops. Heavy gauge wire, steel nuts, or crimped ferrules can be used to make stops and maintain the cable loop at a minimum or maximum diameter, or both.



The maximum loop stop prevents larger animals from entering the device. The minimum loop stop prevents the device from closing around a non-target animal's foot. For example, if a deer steps in the cable loop the minimum loop stop keeps the cable from closing tight enough to hold it.

Swivels

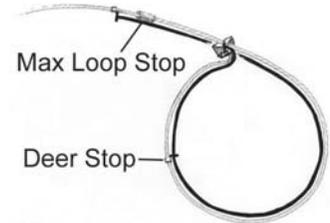
Swivels are used in cable device anchoring systems to keep the animal from twisting and kinking the cable.

Cable/End Ferrule

An end ferrule, also called a cable end, is crimped on the end of a cable to keep the strands from unraveling. A ferrule can also serve as a breakaway device.

Anchoring Systems

Attach cable devices to steel stakes or earth anchors. An alternative is to pass a heavy gauge wire through a swivel on the end of the cable and make a loop around a tree. This allows a furbearer to circle freely around the tree without having the cable wrap up. Stakes and loops need to be strong enough to hold an animal that can pull against it using all four legs.

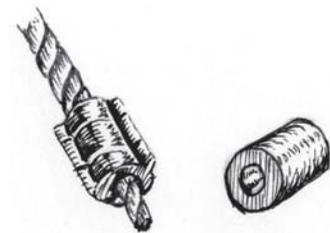


Max Loop Stop

Deer Stop

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Stops.



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Cable/end ferrule.

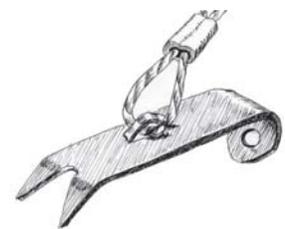


Commercial Double Stake



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End Swivel

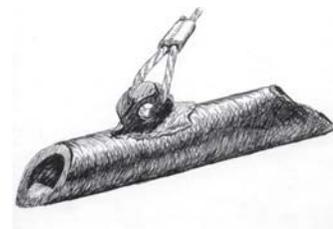


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Earth Anchor.

Stabilizing Wire

Use a stabilizing wire, sometimes called a "pigtail," to hold a cable loop in the proper position to capture a furbearer. Use 11 or 12-gauge wire for stabilizers. If the cable has a stabilizer tube it is simply placed over the wire. If not, the wire is bent in a manner to support the cable.



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Earth Anchor.

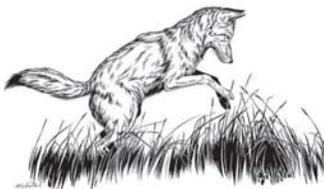


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Loop Stabilizing Wire.



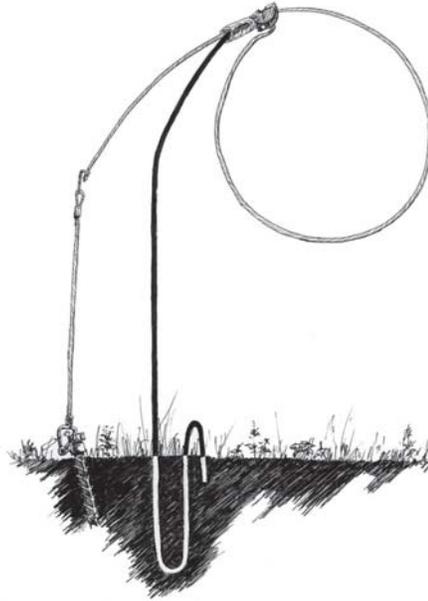
Ohio DOW Photo

Coyote Set.



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Coyote.



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Cable Device in Ground



Stabilizer



Tubing for Stabilizer

Cable Cutters

Use cable cutters to cut steel strand cable. It is nearly impossible to cut cable with pliers used for regular wire.



Explain the procedure for treating cable devices

Treat cable devices prior to use for three reasons:

- To reduce light reflection and visibility
- To remove undesirable odors
- To add natural scent to the device so the animal does not become suspicious

Boiling

Boil cable devices in water mixed with baking soda to remove the oil and dull the appearance. This makes the cable device less visible. Use 4 tablespoons of baking soda for every 12 sets of cable devices, along with enough water to keep the devices covered for one hour of boiling. After boiling add more



water to the container until it overflows and drains the scum off the top. This prevents re-contaminating the cable devices with oil when you lift them out. Many successful trappers use cable devices prepared in this manner, but there are options if you want a darker appearance or some natural scent.

Some trappers boil cable devices a second time with a few logwood crystals for a darker appearance. Do not make cable devices too dark, or they will be too visible.

An option to using logwood crystals is to boil the cable devices in water with bark, moss, plant leaves, or spruce needles collected from your trapping areas. This will darken the cable devices and add some natural scent.

Handling and Storage

Use a strong wire to remove the cable devices from the hot water. Let them dry. Once the cable devices have cooled, you can handle them with gloves that are free of any scent. Hang the devices in a dry place where they will not absorb any unnatural odors.

Prepare enough cable devices to last you the season. Discard cables after capturing an animal. Cables will kink after a catch, and possibly weaken. A kinked cable will not close smoothly. Inspect all other parts of the cable device for damage or weakening before using them again.



Explain procedures for making selective sets using cable devices

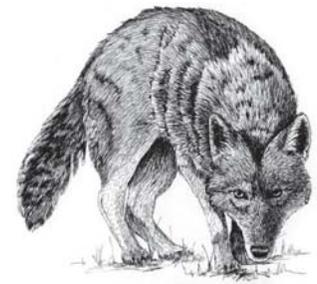
Entanglement is a concern when setting cable devices. Animals caught in cable devices need freedom of movement. It is unlikely they will pull hard enough to hurt themselves, unless they tangle the cable on something. Set cable devices where there is no chance the animal can contact brush, fences, or other objects. Prevent the animal from reaching anything it could climb over, suspending it in the device with its feet off the ground. It is helpful to use shorter cables to prevent animals from reaching anything to cause a problem.

Make certain you thoroughly understand cable device regulations. Regulations vary from state to state according to furbearer management needs and the need for selective trapping. *Check the Michigan Hunting and Trapping Guide for current regulations.*



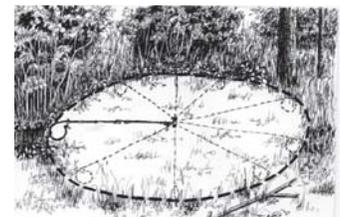
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Pack Basket.



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Coyote.



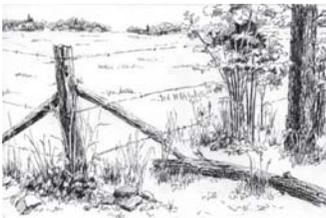
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Restraint Circle - Should be free from entanglement.



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Avoid setting cable devices in areas of high human or domestic animal activity.



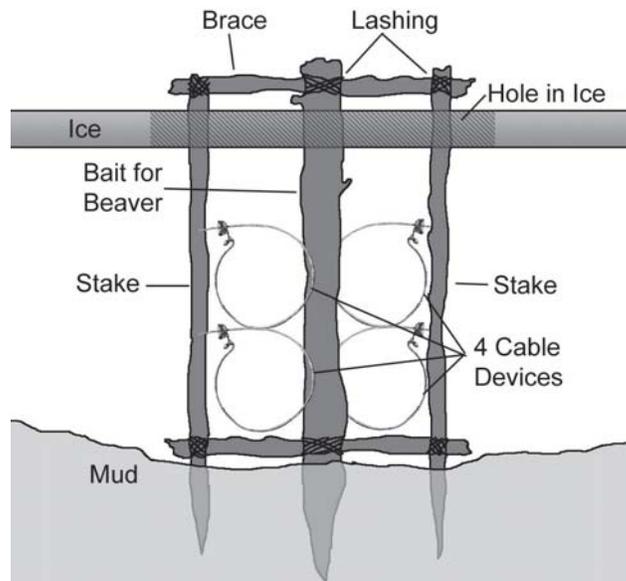
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Avoid setting cable devices where animals can become entangled on fences, trees, rocks, or logs.

Using Cable Devices for Aquatic Furbearers

Cable devices can be set in water for aquatic species. Trappers commonly use cable devices for beaver. Setting cable devices in water is one way to increase selectivity.

Cable devices set for beaver may be used if the location at which they are placed is ice-covered. The cables can be attached to stout poles and stuck in the mud to make channel sets or baited sets for beaver. During the winter, trappers can chop a hole in the ice and push poles through the hole into the mud with cable devices baited for beaver. The under ice beaver set is one of the rare times when bait is used with a cable device. *Before setting a cable device for beaver, please check the Michigan Hunting and Trapping Guide for current regulations.*



Silvertip Productions

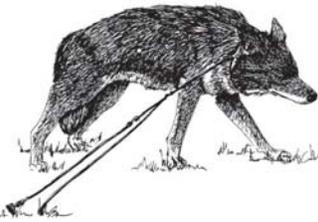
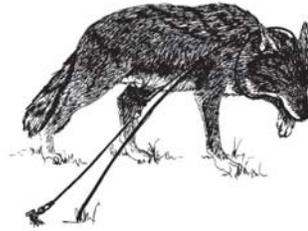
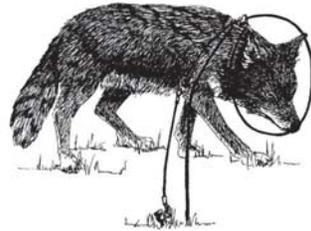
Using Cable Devices for Furbearers on Land

Set non-powered cable devices to catch fox and coyotes around the neck. Fox and coyotes have tapered heads that are wide behind the ears, so cable restraints around their necks will hold them well. Some powered cable devices are designed to place the cable loop on the animal's foot, others will place it around the neck. *Note that powered cable devices are illegal to use in Michigan.*

Do not set cable devices in trails used by people, domestic animals, or deer. Cable devices work best in animal trails or blind sets where the animal will encounter it as it travels. Do not use bait or lure with non-powered cable devices on land. Places where the path narrows are best. Center the cable loop



in the path. The size of the loop and the height from the ground to the bottom of the loop will help you catch the animal you want and avoid other animals.



As an animal walks forward, the cable loop closes

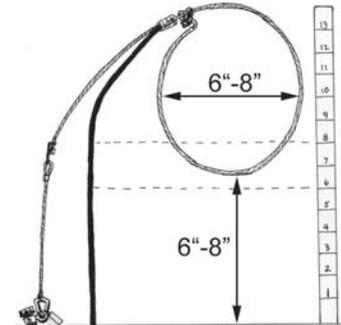
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Loop sizes and heights

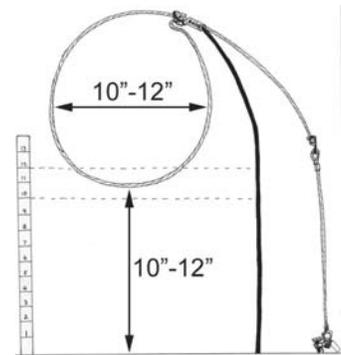
Minimum and maximum loop sizes may vary by state. *Check the Michigan Hunting and Trapping Guide for current regulations.* Below are some recommended ranges when setting cable restraints.

Fox cable loops should be six to eight inches in diameter and the bottom of the loop should be six to eight inches off the ground.

Coyote cable loops should be 10 to 12 inches in diameter and the bottom of the loop should be 10 to 12 inches off the ground.



Wisconsin DNR
Fox Cable Device.



Wisconsin DNR
Coyote Cable Device.

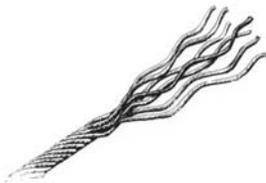
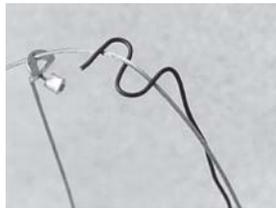
Chapter 13 – Cable Devices

REVIEW

Content Standard - Students demonstrate an understanding of cable devices, and responsible techniques for using them.

Identify cable device equipment and materials (page 99 - 104).

- Match the labels below with their pictures:
 - Multi-strand steel cable
 - Non-powered cable device, relaxing lock, & deer stop
 - Swivel and ferrule
 - Loop stabilizing wire



- Use Michigan trapping regulations to determine if cable devices are legal to use. If so, describe legal restrictions on their use.

Legal? ___ Yes ___ No

Describe: _____

Explain the procedure for treating cable devices (page 102).

- Cable devices are treated before use for three reasons:
 1. Reduces _____ reflection and _____
 2. Removes _____ odors
 3. Adds natural _____ so the animal does not become suspicious

Explain the procedures for making selective sets and using cable devices (page 105).

- Match the cable loop sizes and heights to the animal you want to catch:
 - A. Loops 6 to 8 inches, bottom 6 to 8 inches off ground _____ Coyote
 - B. Loops 10 to 12 inches, bottom 10 to 12 inches off ground _____ Fox