



Live Capture



Before initiating field services involving capture, Pest Control Specialists must be familiar with the object species and its response to disturbance, as well as its sensitivity to capture and restraint. In addition, Pest Control Specialists should be familiar with the advantages and drawbacks of available methods of live capture, particularly those that have been used with the study species.



Pest Control Specialists should review the various traps and trapping techniques to ensure that the type used is effective and suited to the species and situation, will minimize distress and injury to the study animals, and will minimize capture of non-target species. In addition, the Pest Control Specialist should be trained in the correct use of the selected method or technique and should be able to ensure the prompt release of any non-target animal that may be accidentally captured. Restraining (live holding) traps for certain mammal species are also subject to the AIHTS and provincial/territorial regulations.



Live captures must be planned to keep captive animals alive, uninjured, and where necessary, provided with food and water prior to processing and release. Trapping methods must also be selected based on the geographic region and the climatic conditions. Where possible, trapping must be avoided when weather conditions threaten the survival or well-being of trapped animals, unless steps can be taken to mitigate these risks.



Pest Control Specialists should make every effort to avoid trap deaths from factors such as exposure, shock, capture myopathy, and predation. In some areas, the provision of shelter is required. When not in use, traps must be closed, deactivated or removed, and mist nets should be closed and furled to avoid unintentional captures.

The removal of animals with dependent young from the wild should be avoided. Local expertise (e.g., biologists, trappers and/or wildlife re-habilitators) can be a good source of information about the variances at any particular time.

Pest Control Specialists should ensure that special considerations have been reviewed for the live capture of animals dangerous to humans. Depending upon species and location, or when trapping gear that is potentially dangerous to humans or their pets is deployed, the public may have to be warned to avoid study areas (e.g., warning signs should be posted around the study site).

Some provincial/territorial jurisdictions may have regulations or restrictions governing placement and use of certain devices. Pest Control Specialists should be aware of relevant regulations and consult local authorities regarding the need for posting of warning signs, public information efforts, etc.

Trap monitoring frequency

Pest Control Specialists must check restraining traps and nets frequently to avoid injury or death to captured animals.

Depending on the protocol and species involved, traps and nets must be checked as often as possible, with the frequency depending upon the species, trap or net type, weather, location, and applicable provincial/territorial regulations.

Many animals are sensitive to exposure to heat, cold, dehydration and energy deprivation. As well, long periods spent in traps or nets during the reproductive season should be avoided to reduce the possibility of affecting dependent young and breeding behavior.

Animals caught in live holding traps will sometimes fight the trap and may become injured. The occurrence and severity of this will vary with individuals, species, trapping devices and the trapping situation. Pest Control Specialists should be aware of the specific sensitivities and requirements of the species they are dealing with and make provisions to accommodate these (e.g., providing shelter, shade, etc.; see the CCAC species-specific recommendations, <http://www.ccac.ca>). Radio telemetry can be used to monitor trap sites; however, it should not replace frequent on-site monitoring.