

1. The U.S. catches more animals from the wild for the fur trade than any other country in the world. An estimated three to five million animals are trapped each year by commercial fur trappers.

2. Thousands of "non-target" animals are also trapped, including companion animals and endangered or threatened species.

3. Traps are commonly used to kill animals for the fur trade, for "nuisance" wildlife control, and in the federal government's killing of native carnivores. Many states allow wildlife damage control operators to sell the pelts of the animals they kill, thereby adding incentive to kill animals instead of resolving conflicts through non-lethal means.

4. Body-gripping traps—a category that includes leghold traps, snares, and so-called kill-type Conibear traps—bring suffering and death to millions of animals each year.

5. If not killed outright by the trap, an animal can suffer severe physical trauma, dehydration, exposure to inclement weather, and predation by other animals.

6. Trapped animals are most frequently clubbed or suffocated to death, as bullet holes and blood stains reduce the pelt's value.

7. The steel-jaw leghold trap is one of the most commonly used traps in the U.S. by commercial and recreational fur trappers. As of 2016, more than 100 countries have banned or severely restricted the use of steel-jaw leghold traps. In the U.S., only seven states have done similarly.

8. The American Veterinary Medical Association, the American Animal Hospital Association, the World Veterinary Association, and the National Animal Control Association have declared that leghold traps are inhumane.

9. Trapping regulations vary widely from state to state and are often poorly enforced. Many states have few restrictions on the types of traps that can be used, the number of animals that can be trapped, or how trapped animals are to be killed. Three states have no laws requiring that traps be checked on a regular basis, which leads to great suffering.

10. Despite the original intent of the National Wildlife Refuge System to provide a safe haven for wild animals, trapping is allowed on nearly half of all refuges across the U.S.

FAST FACTS ABOUT TRAPPING



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