

Best Management Practices

In 1996, the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies began a program to develop Best Management Practices (BMP) for trapping as a way to improve the welfare of captured animals, and to document improvements in trapping technology. This is the largest program of its kind ever attempted.

BMP criteria for the evaluation of trapping devices; Animal Welfare, Efficiency, Selectivity, Practically, and Safety. Animal welfare was tested using two methods; specific injuries and groups of injuries. BMP approved traps must have a low rate of injuries.

Detailed information on BMPs is available from any state fish& wildlife agency or www.furbearermgmt.org which is maintained by the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.

Modern traps and trapping techniques have evolved from trappers efforts to improve the welfare of the individual animal. Wildlife professionals and trappers are concerned with the welfare of the species as a whole as well as the individual animal. Trappers use smaller traps with swivels, short chains, improved staking methods, and sometimes shock springs to improve the welfare of the individual animal.

Many new traps have been developed to catch specific animals in specific circumstances. Many of these are developed to catch certain animals without catching domestic animals, usually dogs.