

(HOW TO) KEEP DOGS AND CATS SAFE FROM TRAPS

The only way you can be assured that dogs and cats are safe from traps is to keep your dogs leashed and your cats indoors. For those of us who enjoy hiking with our dogs off leash, we must be vigilant and always check to see if the land you're on is open to trapping. Unfortunately, Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) that are purchased by the state for public recreation are open to trapping (and hunting).



Other tips:

- Know when trapping season is but remember that traps set out of season or traps left behind after the season ends still present a threat.
- Signs or warnings are not required in areas where trapping is taking place.
- If walking or hiking in an off-leash park, keep dogs near trails and within visual site and verbal command.
- Remember that traps also can be set in water, in rivers and streams — especially near banks. So always check the area before allowing your dog to swim.
- Carry a smaller, extra leash (thick shoestring or small rope), which can be used to help compress the springs of a Conibear, spring-loaded, kill-type trap.
- Carry wire cutters strong enough to snip through the airplane-grade cable often used in snare traps (a Leatherman-style tool or normal wire cutters will not be strong enough to cut through steel cable).
- Keep cats indoors or create a cat-proofed fenced in yard. (There are companies who make these type of cat barriers, such as Invisible Fence.)



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PO Box 3024 • Stowe, VT 05672
802-768-9862 • ProtectOurWildlifeVT@gmail.com
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