

# Why support H.191?

H.191 restricts recreational and fur trapping. It allows trapping to continue under certain conditions (see page 3 of bill), such as for the protection of property, people, and endangered species.

## Surveys show between 68 and 75 % of Vermonters oppose recreational trapping

The Vermont's Center for Rural Studies 2017 poll asked: "Should Vermont ban the use of steel jaw leghold, body gripping traps and any types of drowning traps?" **75.4%** said yes.

The VT Fish & Wildlife Department's own survey reveals that **68%** of Vermonters disapprove of recreational trapping, and when asked about trapping for fur or clothing, 62% of Vermonters disapprove.

## Animal welfare and risks to non-targeted animals cannot be addressed by "Best Management Practices"



*Image: BMP approved trap found in Vermont*

Best Management Practices (BMPs) for trapping are touted as a way to address animal welfare concerns. They allow for severe suffering to individual animals, as long as an average amount of suffering across all animals trapped is below a certain threshold. For one of the scales, up to 30% of animals caught in leghold traps can suffer from severe trauma, including amputation and death. Animals caught in so-called "quick kill" traps are allowed to suffer for as long as five minutes before becoming permanently unconscious; up to 30% of those animals can suffer in agonizing pain for undetermined periods of time. BMPs define eye lacerations, permanent tooth fractures and other painful injuries only as "moderate" injuries.

BMPs don't prevent people's pets and protected and endangered species from being maimed, injured or killed in traps. Last year, 13 pets were \*reported\* trapped, including two dogs who died. We suspect the number is higher given the common term used by trappers when they trap someone's pet or protected species: "SSS," or shoot, shovel & shut up. In addition to pets, bears, owls and other non-targeted animals are gravely injured or killed in legally set traps for furbearer species—prior to 2022, reporting was not even required. A baited trap set for the targeted animal will also attract non-targeted animals.

## Trapping is not necessary for wildlife management

A senior furbearer biologist at the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department is on record stating that trapping to manage disease, population, or species restoration is "rare" and should not be used as justification for trapping in Vermont.

**Learn more:** contact Vermont Wildlife Coalition at [info@vtwildlifecoalition.org](mailto:info@vtwildlifecoalition.org)

The Vermont Wildlife Coalition represents a broad coalition of wildlife advocates, including anglers, hunters, birders, photographers, artists and a diverse mix of viewpoints and backgrounds.