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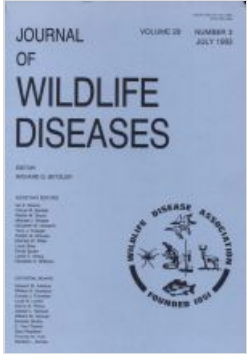
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INJURIES AND BEHAVIOR OF RACCOONS (*PROCYON LOTOR*) CAPTURED IN THE SOFT CATCH™ AND THE EGG™ TRAPS IN SIMULATED NATURAL ENVIRONMENTS

Gilbert Proulx; Detlef K. Onderka; Alfred J. Kolenosky; Cole; Pamela J. Randy K. Drescher; M. J. Badry




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The behavior and injuries of raccoons held for 12 and 24 hr in the Soft Catch™ and the EGG™ traps were studied in simulated natural environments. Nine raccoons held for 12 hr in the Soft Catch™ received minor injuries. However, one of nine raccoons held for 24 hr in this trap mutilated itself. The EGG™ trap caused only minor injuries to nine raccoons held for 12 hr, and nine others held for 24 hr. Thus the EGG™ trap can be expected, at a 95% level of confidence, to hold $\geq 70\%$ of the raccoons on traplines for 24 hr without serious injury. Raccoons captured in the Soft Catch™ fought their surroundings more than the trap. Those captured in the EGG™ trap fought the trap more than their surroundings. During the 24-hr capture study, escape behavior was more intense during the first 12 hr of capture, during both day and night.

Keywords: Experimental study, raccoon, *Procyon lotor*, Soft Catch™ foothold trap, EGG™ trap, humane trapping

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Injuries and behavior of raccoons (*Procyon lotor*) captured in the soft catch and EGG traps in simulated natural environments. *J of Wildl Disease* 1993;29:447-452. International Association for Fish and Wildlife Agencies. Assessment of three restraining traps and two protocols to capture raccoons in the Midwest in 2002-2003, October 2003. Kamler J, Richardson C, Gipson P. Comparison of standard and modified soft catch traps for capturing coyotes, bobcats, and raccoons. *Proceedings of the Wildlife Damage Management Conference* 9:77-84. Fernandez-Moran J, Saavedra D, Manteca_Vilanova, X. Reintroduc *Procyon lotor* Common North American Raccoon. Background: Raccoons range throughout the United States, actually they range from southern Canada to the Panama. They are fond of areas near water in piney forests and broadleaf woodlands. Description: The raccoon is a medium sized mammal about the size of a small to medium sized dog. In the wild, the the raccoon will have a den built in a hollow tree. Usually an outdoor area at least 4'x4' with a source of running water is needed. If kept in the house they are readily box trained and are similar to keeping a cat or dog except you will probably have to put childproof latches on your cupboards and drawers! Care and feeding