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Aldrich-Style Bear Foot Snare Instructions

The Aldrich-style foot snare (Fig. below) has been used extensively by the USDA and state wildlife agency personnel to catch nuisance bears. This method is safe, when correctly used, and allows for the release of non-target animals. Bears captured in this manner can be tranquilized, released, trans-located, or destroyed. Use baits as described previously to attract bears to foot snare sets.

The tools required for the pipe set are:

- An Aldrich foot snare complete with the spring throw arm,
- A 9-inch (23-cm) long, 5-inch (13-cm) diameter piece of stove pipe,
- Iron pin,
- Hammer
- Shovel.

Cut a 1-inch (2.5-cm) slot, 6 1/2 inches (16.5 cm) long, down one side of the pipe.

Place the pipe in a hole dug 9 inches (23 cm) deep into the ground. Cut a groove in the ground to accommodate the spring throw arm so that the pan will extend through the slot into the center of the pipe. The top of the pipe should be level with the ground surface. Anchor the pipe securely to the ground, where possible, by attaching it to spikes or a stake driven into the ground inside the can. Bears will try to pull the pipe out of the ground if it "gives." The spring throw arm should be placed with the pan extending into the pipe slot 6 inches (15 cm) down from the top of the pipe. Pack soil around the pipe 1 inch (2.5 cm) from the top. Leave the pipe slot open and the spring uncovered.

Loop the cable around the pipe, leaving 1/2 inch (1.3 cm) of slack. Place the cable over the hood on the spring throw arm, then spike the cable to the ground in back of the throw arm. The cable is spiked to keep it flush to the ground so that it will not un-kink or spring up prematurely. Cover the cable loop with soil to the top of the pipe.

Anchor the cable securely to a tree at least 8 inches (20 cm) in diameter. Cover the spring throw arm and pipe slot with grass and leaves. Place a few boughs and some brush around the set to direct the bear into the pipe. The slot in the pipe and the spring throw arm should be at the back of the set.

Melt bacon into the bottom of the pipe and drop a small piece in. The bacon should not lie on the pan. Other bait, such as donuts, may be used. Place a 15 to 20-pound (6.8- to 9-kg) rock over the top of the pipe. Melt bacon grease on the top of it or rub it on. The rock will serve to prevent humans, birds, non-target wild animals, and livestock from being caught in the snare.

To help the bear approach the set place drops of **Black Magic Bruin lure (WCSBNBMB-8 oz/16oz)** every few feet with an ounce or more of your favorite bait. The bear will proceed toward the rock and lick the grease off of it. He will then roll the rock from the top of the pipe and try to reach the bait with its mouth. When this fails, it will use a front foot, which will then be caught in the snare. The bear will try to reach the bait first with its mouth and may spring the set if the pan is not placed the required 6 inches (15 cm) below the top of the pipe. Pipe sets are more efficient, more economical, and safer than leghold traps.

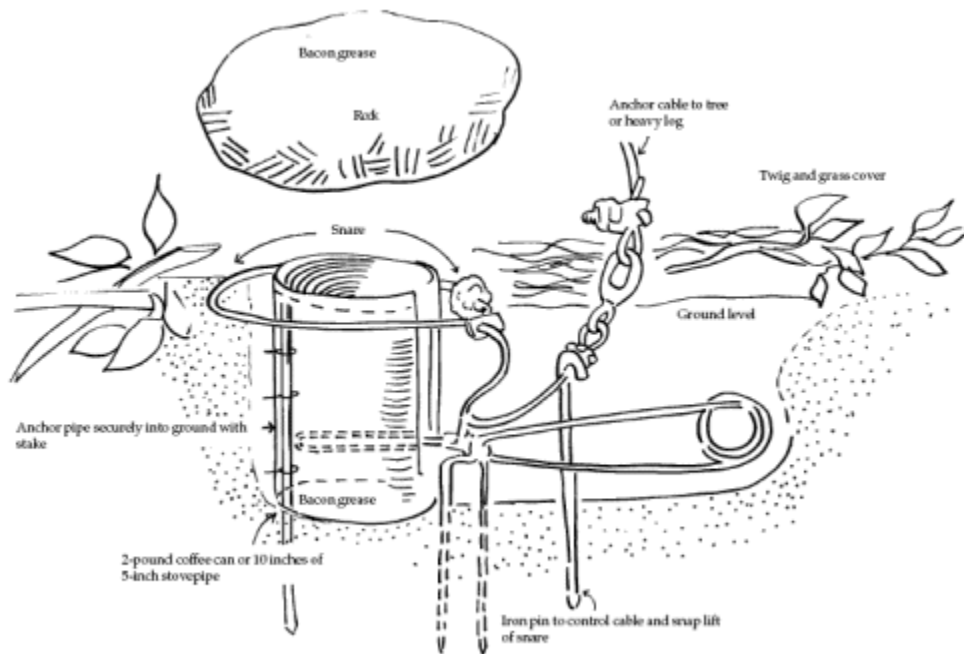


Fig. 7. Pipe snare set with Aldrich foot snare.