

topcat

The vole trap.

Instructions for use

+ SWISS MADE

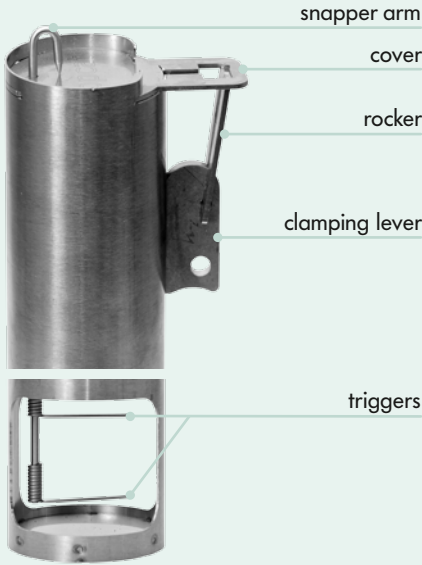


Andermatt
Biocontrol



The topcat-trap and accessories

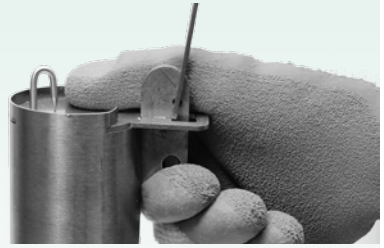
The different parts of the trap



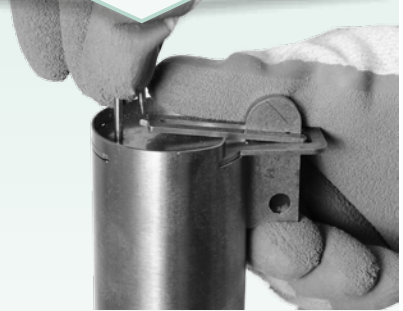
Accessories



How to set the topcat-trap



Push the clamping lever with the attached rocker all the way upwards through the slit in the cover.



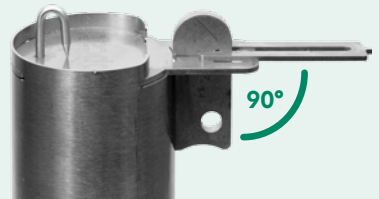
Push down the rocker onto the cover of the trap and hold down. Pull the snapper arm all the way up.

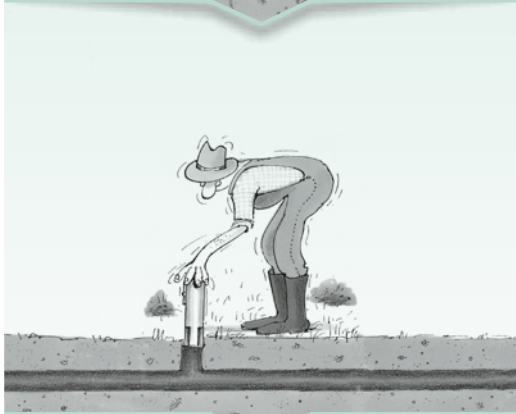
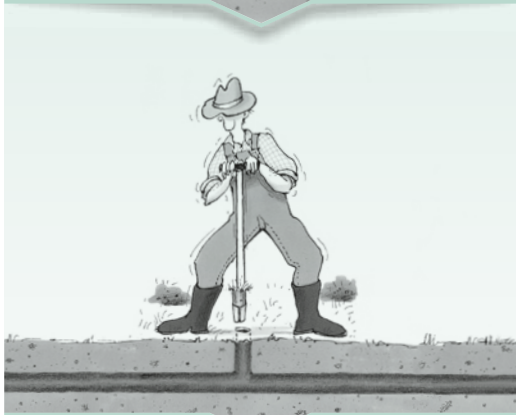


Slowly release the rocker, until the tip of the rocker touches the tip of the snapper arm.

Locking the trap

To lock the open trap, rotate the rocker **90°** outwards into locking position.





Positioning the topcat-trap

To find the vole burrow, stick the searching rod 10–15 cm deep into the ground every 5 cm starting by a fresh mound until a cavity is detected. Enlarge the hole with the rod and insert a finger to determine the direction of the tunnel. Avoid crushing tunnel with foot.

Cut a clean hole through the tunnel by turning the ground cutter into the ground until the base is around 3–4 cm below the tunnel floor. Press gently so that the tunnel does not cave in. Pull the ground cutter with the clump of earth carefully out of the hole. Press loose earth down with the knob of the searching rod so that it does not block the tunnel.

Position the trap into the hole. The passage through the trap should correspond with the height and direction of the tunnel. Cover the surface of the trap with earth so that neither light nor air penetrates into the tunnel. Make sure the clamping lever has enough free space. Set the topcat-trap and mark the spot clearly.

Once the release mechanism has been triggered, gently push the trap back and forth to enlarge the hole and carefully remove the trap. Dispose of the dead animal and replace the empty trap in the same hole. Repeat this procedure for as long as voles are trapped or the trap is being filled with earth. Then remove the trap and leave a marker in the open hole. If no signs of digging are detected within two hours, there are no voles left in the burrow.

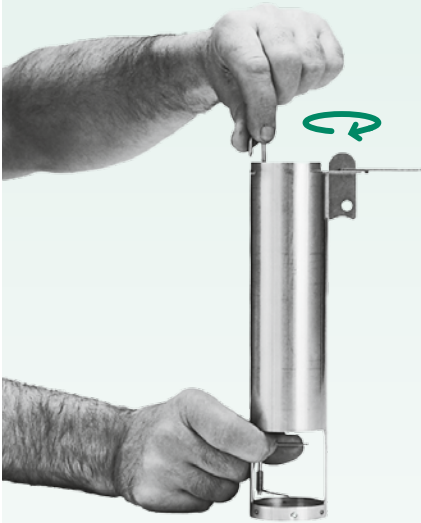
Instructions for care

Clean the trap occasionally with water and leave to dry. Lubricate with odourless milking grease if needed.

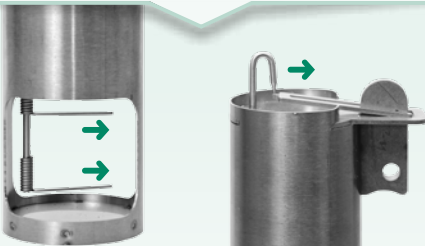
Spare parts

All parts can be replaced individually. Please contact your nearest reseller.

Bringing misaligned triggers into the right position



Bring the rocker into locking position (see page 25). Bring the two triggers, one after the other, in position and hold them there with one hand. Grasp the small hook of the snapper arm and turn clockwise until the hook and triggers are positioned parallel to the rocker.



Functional check: set the trap and check if both triggers (Fig. left) are positioned parallel to the rocker (Fig. right).

Recommendations

- ✓ One to two traps per burrow are sufficient. Check traps frequently, to see if the mechanism has been set off.
- ✓ If a trap is often filled with earth, clean the tunnel and make sure that neither light nor air penetrates into the tunnel.
- ✓ For voles, no bait is required, while common voles are caught more quickly in baited traps: attach a piece of carrot or apple to the upper trigger.
- ✓ Moles (if allowed to trap) are difficult to catch because they live individually in their extensive (100–250 m) galleries. Thus patience is needed.
- ✓ Voles and moles are sensitive to odours. While the smell of humans does not repel them, the strong odour of dissolvents, dung or perfume does. Traps with such odours are often filled with earth and need to be washed thoroughly with warm water. Store traps in an open container in an odour neutral area.
- ✓ Trapping can be optimised if catches are protocolled and the following is observed:
 - Voles live in family groups: a male, one or two females and 4 to 5 offspring.
 - Field mice live in larger groups. Catching more than 10 mice in the same spot is not unusual.
 - Moles are solitary except during the mating season.

For more information: www.topcat.ch


Safety precautions and legal regulations: Page 32


Characteristics of rodents


Water vole

Arvicola terrestris



 Feeds predominantly on underground roots and tubers

 Cylindrical body, long and beaver like teeth
Length: 12–20 cm; Weight: 60–110 g

 Heaps are rather flat, the soil is slightly crumbly with plant and root residues





 High


Common vole

Microtus arvalis



 Versatile herbivore, specialised on herbs and seeds

 Cylindrical body, but more slender than the bigger water voles
Length: 9–12 cm; Weight: 20–45 g

 Very small amount of soil around the open burrow entrance. The soil is very crumbly





 Very high


Mole

Talpa sp.



 Carnivore: Earthworms, larvae and insects etc.


 Very muscular body, powerful forepaws for digging and with strong nails. Lean, trunk-like snout
Length: 10–15 cm; Weight: 50–130 g


 Hemispherical with rough cloddy soil




 Low

 Diet

 Burrows and mounds

 Body characteristics

 Reproduction potential

Safety precautions and legal notice

- Not for use by children under the age of 12.
- Keep hands away from snapping trap
→ risk of injury.
- Do not allow trap to snap closed if empty.
- Use gloves while handling the vole trap (disease transmission).
- Use topcat in accordance with local laws and regulations.

Andermatt Biocontrol AG

Stahlematten 6 · 6146 Grossdietwil · Switzerland
Tel. +41 (0)62 917 50 05 · Fax +41 (0)62 917 50 06
sales@biocontrol.ch · www.biocontrol.ch