47 Field Card: Trapping Basics

Your state's limits, your traps and sets, the morning round and what to do about a wrong catch, on one sheet in the truck.

A trap keeps working after you drive home, and anything it holds waits there for you. Fill in the legal lines from this season's trapping regulations before you buy a single trap, then keep the card in the truck while you run the line.

01 / MY LICENSE AND THE LAW

CHAPTER 44

State: _____

License no.: _____

☐ Cable restraint certificate, if required, carried while I set or check them

Trapper education: ☐ required ☐ passed

Longest wait between checks (land / water): _____ · ☐ hours ☐ calendar days

Trap tags: ☐ name and address ☐ agency ID

ID no.: _____

- I check every set daily, early in the morning, even where the law allows longer.

02 / MY TRAPS

CHAPTERS 44 AND 45

☐ Foothold, jaw spread: _____ in

☐ Body-grip, model: _____

☐ Cable restraint, loop: _____ in

Target animals: _____

Pan tension: _____ lb

Jaw opening, measured: _____ in or sq in

☐ Cage

☐ Model and size named in its BMP

Where and how my state limits them: _____

- Red fox or bobcat: about 2 lb on the pan; coyote, near 4. Body-grips size 120 and up: tongs or a chain setter and the safety catches latched, never by hand. Never wax one.

03 / MY SETS

CHAPTER 46

- Dirt hole: 4 in across, 6–8 in deep, slanted under a backstop. Bed centered 7 in from the hole for a fox, 12 for a coyote, stake flush in the middle.
- Trap bedded just below ground, a jaw toward the hole; I press the jaws and levers, never the pan. Pan cover, then ½ in of sifted dirt over the whole trap. Bait in the bottom, lure on the back rim, urine on the backstop.

Dirt-hole spots on my line: _____

- Cage set by: _____ · Bait at the back, past the treadle, under cover where I can.

47 Field Card: Trapping Basics

CONTINUED

04 / MY MORNING ROUND

CHAPTER 46

Set no.	Date	Catch

Out at first light: _____ Back by: _____

Line map left with: _____

Sets I can check before work or school: _____

- [ ] Pan tension rechecked after each catch
- [ ] Rubber gloves for skunks and raccoons with patchy fur
- [ ] Every trap pulled the day I quit

05 / WRONG CATCHES AND DOGS

CHAPTERS 44 AND 46

- [ ] Catchpole
- [ ] Plywood with a V notch

- No pet food in my baits, and land sets with meat bait kept away from roads, public trails, boundary fences and houses.
- Hands clear of the teeth. Dog in a foothold: catchpole loop snug on the neck, not choking; I hold the head away while I press the springs, or a helper holds the pole.
- Cat or bobcat: no loop. Plywood between us, the V over the trapped foot, springs pressed behind it.
- Cage: gloves on, I stay behind the trap and hold the door open so it can walk out.
- Any pet that hasn't bitten or scratched me goes free at once, and I tell its owner if I can.
- Bitten or scratched: soap and water, a doctor and the health department; the animal isn't released or buried until they decide on a rabies test.

06 / LANDOWNER PERMISSION

CHAPTERS 44 AND 63

Landowner: _____ Phone: _____

- [ ] In writing

Date: _____

Where I may set traps: _____

- My license never gets me onto private land without the owner's permission.