

UK DOC Trap Instructions

Page 1

Introduction

DOC traps are approved in the UK for trapping stoat (*Mustela erminea*). This species is subject to the trap welfare requirements of the Agreement on International Humane Trapping Standards (AIHTS). The AIHTS standards are met if the time to irrecoverable unconsciousness does not exceed prescribed species-specific time limits. Not only must the time limit be met, but it must be met consistently. This consistency is achieved by using baffles to control how the target animal enters the trap.

Baffles

The trap and baffle must be fixed so that their relative positions cannot change. The gap between them and the tunnel sides must be no more than 10mm, so that an animal cannot squeeze past, but not be so close as to impede the action of the trap.

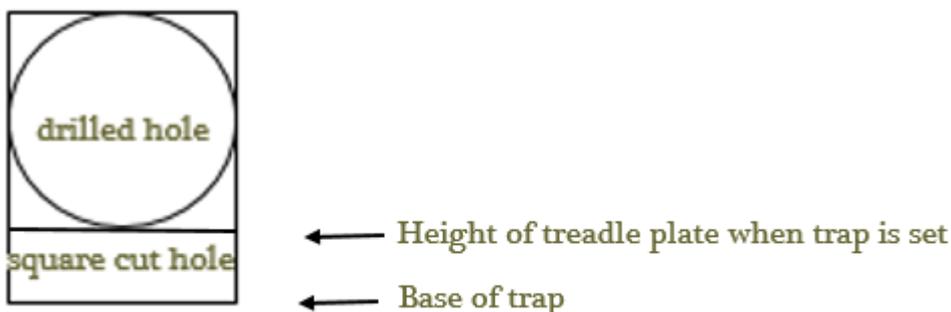
Similarly, the gap between the trap and baffle must be no more than 10mm but not be so close as to impede the action of the trap.

The required baffle arrangements differ depending whether the trap is used in:

- a closed-end tunnel (a tunnel which can only be entered from one end), or
- a run-through tunnel (a tunnel which can be entered from either direction).

The baffle may be made from any suitable material, but its dimensions and placement relative to the trap must comply with the instructions that follow (pages 4 and 5) which prescribe the arrangement and aperture size of baffles in each of these types of tunnel.

If a solid material is to be used for the internal baffle, the widest point of the hole should not exceed the maximum permitted width and height of the hole above the treadle plate when the trap is set (see illustration).



Tunnels and Chassis

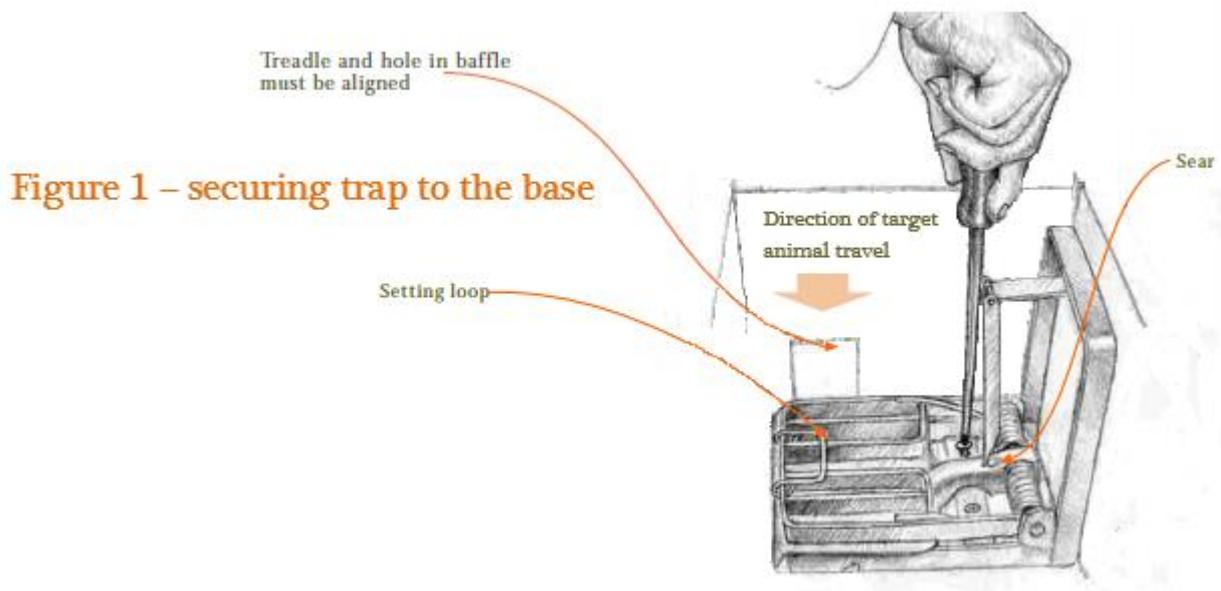
Pages 4 and 5 show how the trap and baffle arrangements can be part of either a complete trap tunnel requiring access to the trap via an opening lid (Fig 4), or a separate rigid 'chassis', which can be slid in and out of a separate tunnel (Fig 3).

Tunnels must be 'suitable for the purpose' with respect to selectivity (exclusion of non-target species), convenience in operation and human safety. How this is done is left to discretion of the operator, allowing some flexibility over materials, dimensions, and tunnel entrance size according to circumstances.

The trap must be firmly secured to a rigid base (Fig 1). Either to the floor of the trap tunnel itself (Fig 4) or to the base of separate rigid 'chassis' (Fig 3).

Tunnel entrance(s) should be designed to prevent access by non-target animals. Measures such as using external excluders at the tunnel entrance(s) are usually employed to achieve this.

External excluders can be made of any suitable materials and be of any configuration, which practicably minimises the likelihood of it killing, taking or injuring non-target species, without unreasonably compromising the trap's use.



Setting the trap

If you are using bait in a closed end tunnel put it in place before setting the trap.

Pull carefully on the wire setting loop with your hand. Continue past the top of the trigger arm, allowing the trigger arm to drop onto the treadle.

SLOWLY release pressure, allowing the bottom of the trigger arm to gently ride up the treadle and catch the sear.

After setting, the trap can be temporarily secured using the safety clip provided whilst you locate the trap into its final position. If using a rigid chassis (Fig 3), remove the safety clip before sliding the chassis into the tunnel.

Make sure that the wire loop is horizontal, lying against the trap frame and remember to take the safety clip off before you leave the trap or it will not go off.

Do not attempt to remove the safety clip after sliding a rigid 'chassis' into a tunnel. If you forget, slide the chassis out before removing the safety clip, then carefully slide the chassis back in again.

Warning traps are dangerous once set

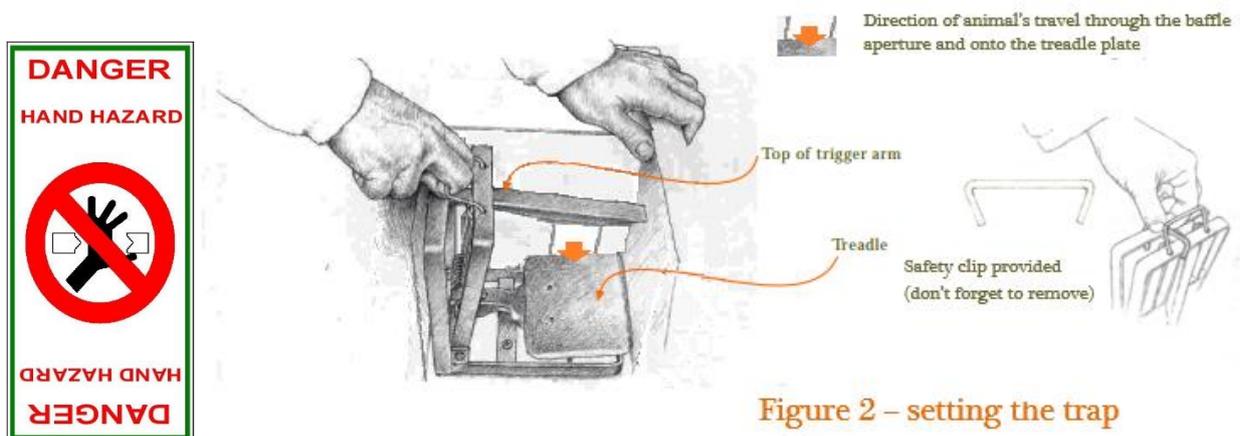


Figure 2 – setting the trap

Traps to be used in accordance to safe practice!

Traps are dangerous and the user agrees to use at his or hers own risk.

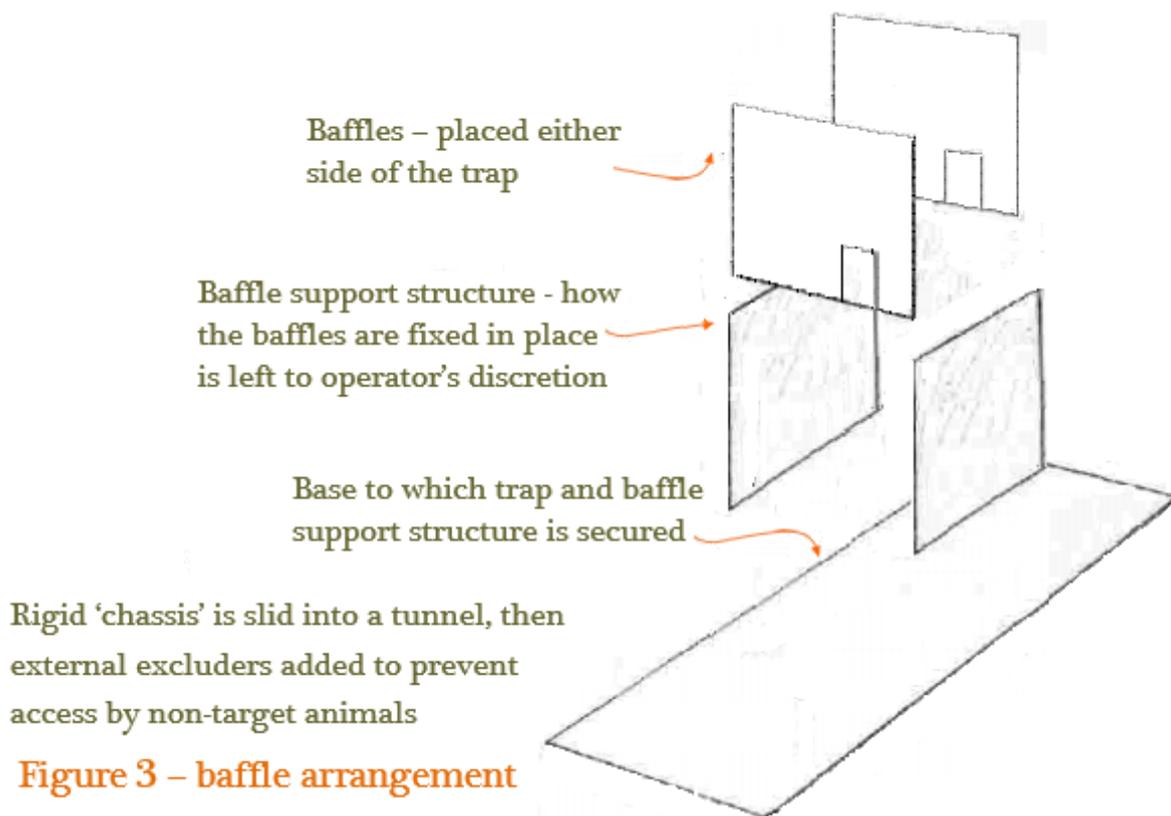
The manufacturer takes no responsibility for any harm caused.

Baffle arrangement in run-through tunnels

For run-through tunnels, two baffles must be used. One each side of the trap, with their holes aligned (see Fig 3), so that approaching animals are slowed and guided over the 'strike area' of the trap whichever direction they approach from. **Note that baffle apertures (holes) must be smaller for run-through tunnels than for closed-end tunnels.**

For run-through tunnels, baffle apertures must be no more than 51mm (2inch) wide and extend no more than 51mm (2inch) above the treadle plate, when the trap is set. (I.e. 64mm (2½inch) from the base of the trap). If using 10mm weld mesh to make the baffles, an aperture can be made by removing 5 wide 6 squares high. If using ½ inch weld mesh, remove 4 wide x 5 high squares if cutting a hole from the base of the baffle.

If leaving mesh squares in place below the level of the treadle plate when the trap is set, cut a 5x5 squares (10mm weld mesh) or 4x4 squares (½ inch weld mesh) square aperture. See the hole cutting diagram on page 1.



Baffle arrangement in closed-end tunnels

For tunnels with one end closed, a baffle must be used adjacent to the trap, so that an animal approaching from the tunnel entrance is slowed and guided over the 'strike area' of the trap (Fig 4).

If using 10mm weld mesh to make the open end excluder baffle, we suggest a centrally placed 64mm (2½inch) square aperture made by removing 6x6 squares (3x3 squares if using 20mm weld mesh). If using ½ inch weld mesh, remove 5x5 squares. See hole diagram on page 1 and further information on external excluders page 2.

The inner baffle aperture (hole) in closed-end tunnels must be no more than 64mm (2½inch) wide and extend no more than 64mm (2½inch) above the treadle plate, when the trap is set (i.e. 80mm (3⅛inch) from the base of the trap). **Note that this is a larger aperture size than that permitted for run-through inner baffles.**

If using 10mm weld mesh to make the baffles, an aperture from the base of the baffle can be made by removing 6x8 squares (3x4 squares if using 20mm weldmesh). If using ½ inch weld mesh, remove 5x6 squares.

If leaving mesh squares in place below the level of the treadle plate when the trap is set, cut a 6x6 squares (10mm weld mesh) or 5x5 squares (½ inch weld mesh) square aperture. See the hole cutting diagram on page 1.

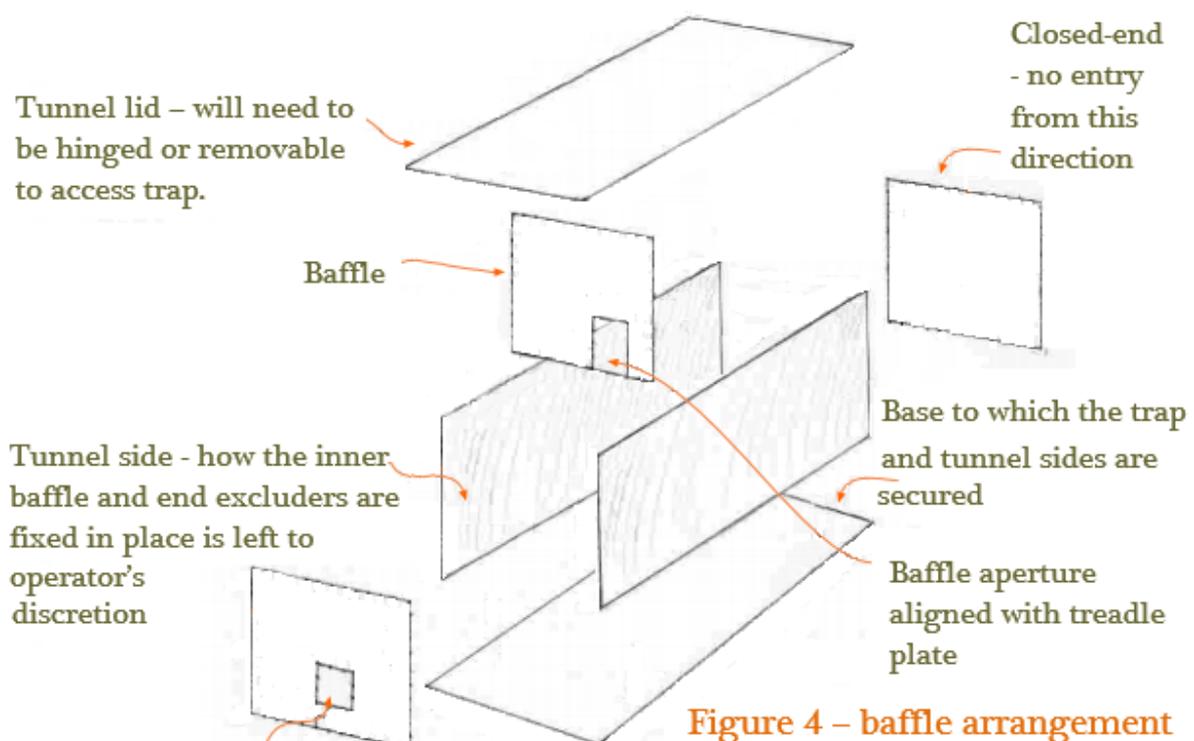


Figure 4 – baffle arrangement

External tunnel end hole - size left to operator's discretion

Page 6

Traps and setting tools are available from the manufacturer, CMI Springs and via UK stockists – see stockists at www.predatortraps.com.

Trap development contacts and feedback

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