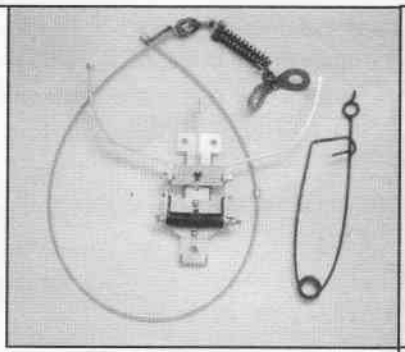
Collarum™

Assembly and Setting Instructions

Thank you for choosing the Collarum™ canine-specific, cable restraint, capture device.

For your safety, you should wear eye protection, a long-sleeved shirt and gloves when working with the trap.

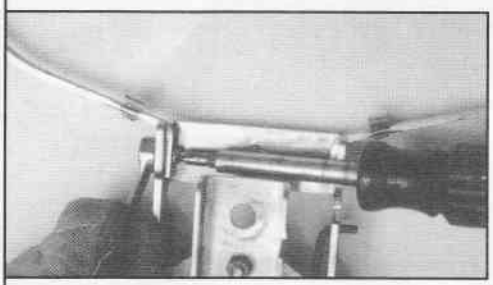
1. Main components



These are the main components of the Collarum™: the throw mechanism with the cable support arms and the trigger, the cinch spring, and the capture cable.

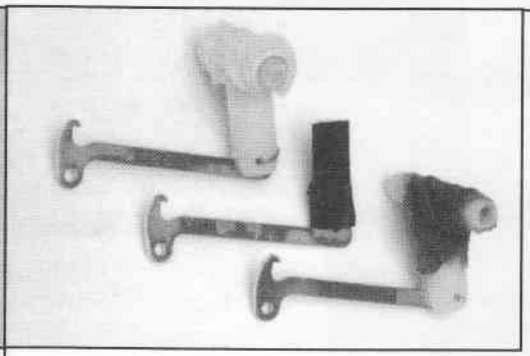
2. Mount the cable support arms

The throw mechanism will arrive assembled except for the cable support arms, which may need to be mounted. When mounting the arms, the open, or channel, portion of the cable clip should face the same direction as the channel of the baseplate. The arms will mount on the inside of the throw lever.



Because of varying uses as well as individual preferences, no pull cap is mounted.

3. Attach a bait cap



This illustration shows two types of bait caps. The "T" caps will help orient the animal's head in the direction of cable throw, but are larger and may be intimidating or suspicious to some animals. The smaller vertical cap is a more traditional M-44 cap. I pack cotton or wool in the openings to hold the scent. I wrap the "T" caps with Vet wrap and then dip in paraffin and beeswax. I also use a hot-glue gun to glue sheepskin, faux fur, or burlap to them. The "T" is pushed down over the notched trigger upright with the top of the "T" sitting *perpendicular* to the trigger bar and the notch in the "T" around the bar. The 1/2" soaker hose caps push down over the upright. They deform some to grip the upright. **Use wire or a cotter pin to secure the cap by drilling holes to match with the hole in the trigger upright. Other bait, such as bones, pieces of meat, or terry cloth soaked in bait can also be wired or tied to the trigger.**

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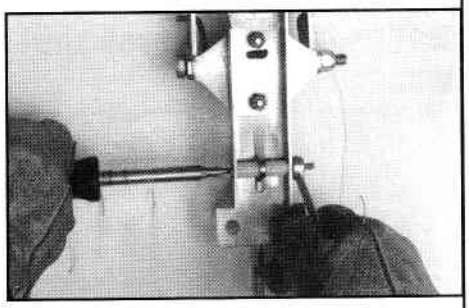
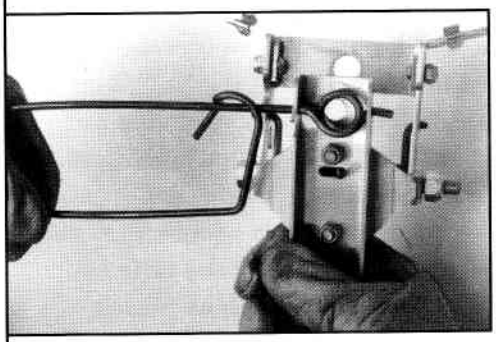
4.
Adjust trigger tension

Before cocking the trap, you should check the trigger tension. To adjust the tension simply tighten or loosen the bolt that attaches the trigger to the base. This varies the amount of friction provided by the nylon spacers. The Collarum™ arrives with very slight or no tension. This makes the trap fairly "hair triggered". *Very light* tension will prevent trigger creep and possible misfires. More tension will produce a trap that excludes smaller animals. Keep in mind that ground conditions could make the trigger harder to pull once it is buried, so generally little or no tension is needed.

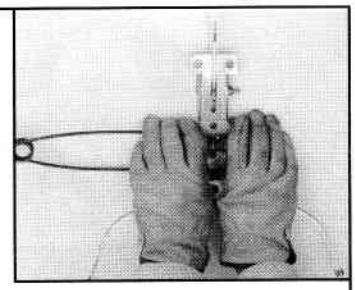


5.
Attach cinch spring

The next step is to attach the cinch spring. First, place the end of the spring with the small coil into the hole in the base plate. Rotate and maneuver the spring so the leg slides into the hooked slot on the opposite side of the base. The small coil will be centered below the hole in the base plate. The end of the hook should point in the same direction as the trigger. The spring should be held lightly in place.

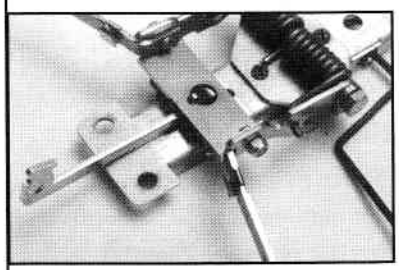


6.
Prepare to cock the throw mechanism



Before engaging the cinch spring, you'll need to cock the throw mechanism. I find the tailgate of my pickup works well, but any solid, relatively flat surface will do, e.g., a 2 X 4 or small piece of plywood, even a flat rock.

Begin with the arms closest to you, the trigger furthest away. Keep your hands near the throw mechanism. Do not grasp the arms ONLY! Ensure that the two coil springs are engaged in their respective holes in each side of the throw mechanism. Raise the arms to vertical, then use body weight to depress them toward the trigger. Slightly lift the trigger. When the hook, or "dog," portion of the trigger comes through the hole where the arms are mounted, depress the trigger to lock the "dog" in place. Release your weight and the trap is cocked.

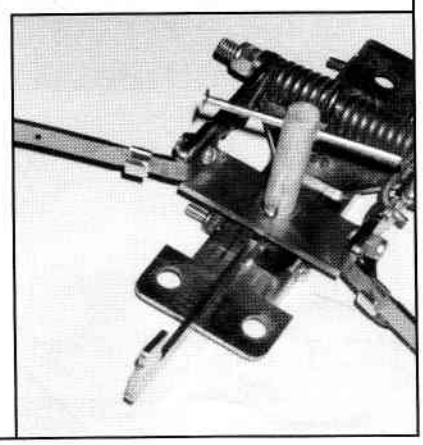


7.
Throw mechanism cocked.

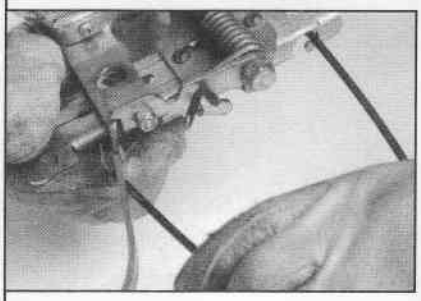
Remember, you should **maintain downward pressure on the trigger** to prevent the throw mechanism from firing. (This is different from most traps where you maintain upward pressure on the trigger or pan to prevent firing.) If you maintain downward pressure, this trap is very easy to handle with no risk of accidental firing.

8.
"Safety pin"

If desired, you can use a "safety pin"—a beveled and grooved 1/2" wooden dowel inserted around the trigger dog—to further secure the trap.



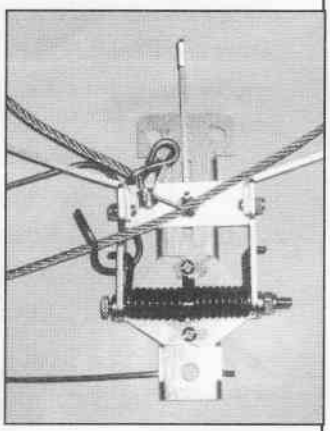
9.



Engage the cinch spring

Now engage the cinch spring by squeezing the legs together enough to free the hook portion of the spring and guide it into the slot on the side of the throw mechanism. The trap is now fully cocked and ready to place.

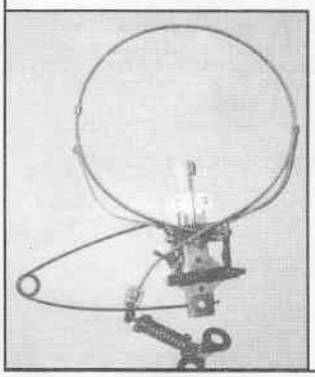
10.
Mount the cable



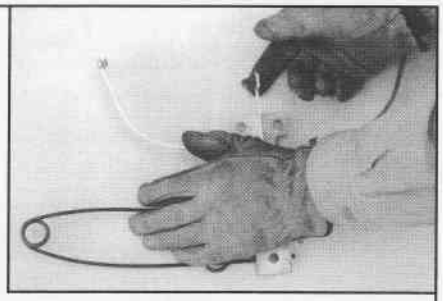
Before placing the Collarum™ in the ground, you should practice mounting the cable. Begin by placing the cable under the cinch spring hook and through the groove in the throw lever. There should be 2 or 3 inches of tail beyond the cinch spring hook for best results. The cable runs alongside the arms and should be *lightly* gripped by the clips. For the best lay, the cable side that ends at the lock should be under the anchored side of the cable. For general use, the trap comes with cable clips at the outer ends of the arms. For heavy soil and freezing conditions, add clips to the inner part of the arms. This gives a more secure throw.

11.
Properly positioned cable.

For coyotes and large dogs, you need 6"-8" of space between the bait cap and the cable to ensure the cable fires over the forehead. Once your trap is assembled, you may want to practice set and fire it a few times before taking it into the field. Again, protective eye wear, arm and hand protection are called for.



12.
Uncock the trap



You should practice uncocking the trap. Remember to keep downward pressure on the trigger. Begin by disengaging the cinch spring. Put the trap on a solid surface and place one hand over the throw lever and trigger dog and put body weight on that. Slowly lift up on the trigger with the other hand. This will allow the trap to fire in slow motion and give you control over how quickly it fires.

13.
A well-made set.

Nearly all of the elements essential for successfully placing a foothold trap apply to the Collarum™ as well. Many books have been written and videotapes made of those, so I won't reiterate here. What I'd like to do is point out some considerations unique to this trap.

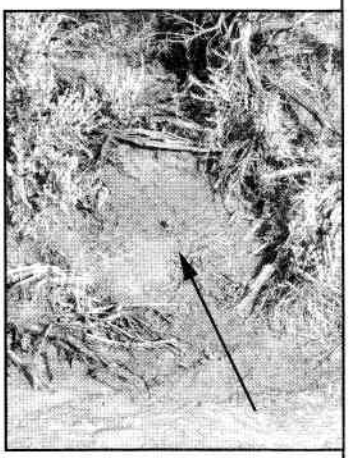
I consider four elements in placing this device: 1) backing, 2) elevation, 3) slope, 4) space.

Backing: By using natural features or enhancing the background behind the cable and around the bait cap, you can funnel or channel the canine's approach and pull. To capture canines with the Collarum™, they must pull the cap from the "spring" side. If the pull comes from the side where the cable is unsupported it will hit under the chin and slide off. Even very small features in an otherwise open landscape can be used. Regardless of size, **good backing is essential** to the successful use of this trap.

Elevation: I prefer the trap set 3" - 12" above the

animal's foot level, e.g., just off the side of a worn trail. This means the bait cap is easier to investigate with the nose and mouth, and the canine is not as likely to paw. Elevation is nice, but not essential.

Slope: A slight slope or sidehill helps make an effective set. With the cable slightly higher than the spring end, the cable is already on its way over the head when the trap is sprung. Slope is nice, but not essential.

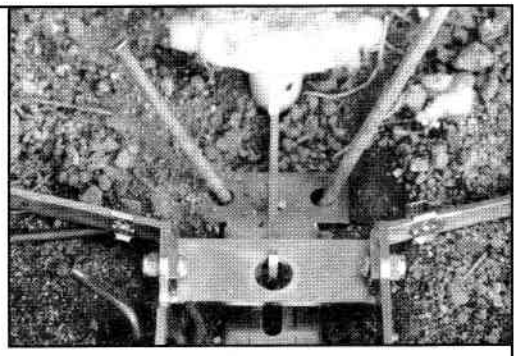


Space: The cable requires adequate room for an unobstructed throw. Overhanging twigs, brush, etc. must be removed. The cinch spring also requires several inches of unobstructed space to fire fully. The trap can be used without the cinch spring, but the capture rate is decreased. (If the cinch spring is not used, the cable must be anchored close to the cable support arm on the same side the cinch spring would occupy. (See Illustration 18.) **Space for the cable throw is essential;** space for the cinch spring is not.

Some sets have been nothing more than the Collarum™ spiked down on the ground surface then covered with dirt to resemble a freshly dug dirt hole. In most cases though, the Collarum™ is bedded in a shallow hole.

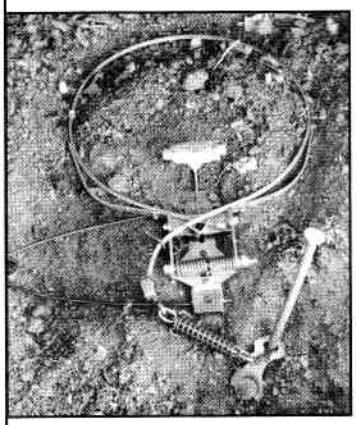
Start by laying the trap in place to judge what needs excavating. Be sure to clear space beneath where the trigger will sit. All that's necessary for the cable is a shallow groove.

14. Nail down the throw mechanism



Once the hole is dug, the throw mechanism must be nailed down to prevent the animal from lifting it out of the ground as it pulls the bait cap. Nailing also prevents rotation as the cinch spring fires. **Use the two holes in the base that sit alongside the trigger bar.** Do not use the hole in the base where the cinch spring mounts. **Hold down on the trigger** during the nailing to prevent firing of the trap. Driving the nails at an angle to form an X underground gives good holding power. Soil conditions will determine how long and large a nail is necessary. In hard ground, 6" ring shank nails work well; in softer ground 8" rain gutter nails work. In very sandy soil you may need to deadman the trap. By using small nails the trap is less prone to damage because it can be pulled loose and kicked out of the way by the animal once it's captured. This will also decrease the chance of injury to the animal.

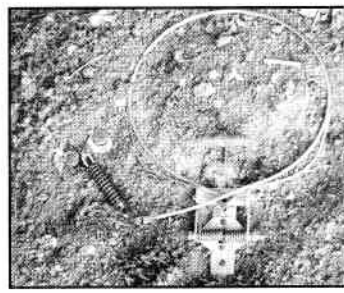
15. Anchor the cable



The anchor system I prefer is a 53 lb. in-line cushion spring and a double-stake swivel or link. I use a chain link at the spring ends for better flexibility. The spring adds cushioning to the system and should be used for live-capture applications. I use 2 rebar stakes to anchor the cable toward the front of the trap. Disposable stakes or bullet stakes can be used in place of rebar stakes and the double-stake swivel. **If you use an extension cable or chain on the capture cable, please see the illustration at the end of this manual.**

16.
Trap without cinch spring

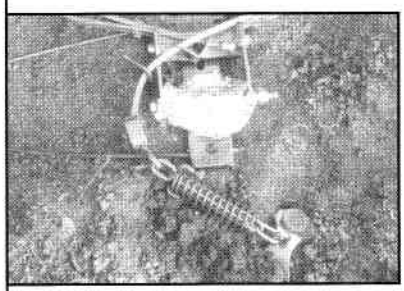
If you choose not to use the cinch spring because of limited space, legal limitations, or very hard soil conditions, the cable should be staked to the side of the trap, near where the main coil of the cinch spring would sit if it was being used. (Not using the cinch spring will result in a decreased capture rate in most circumstances.) One of the bolts attaching the spring holder to the base plate can be removed so the mechanism pivots when fired. This will increase the capture rate.



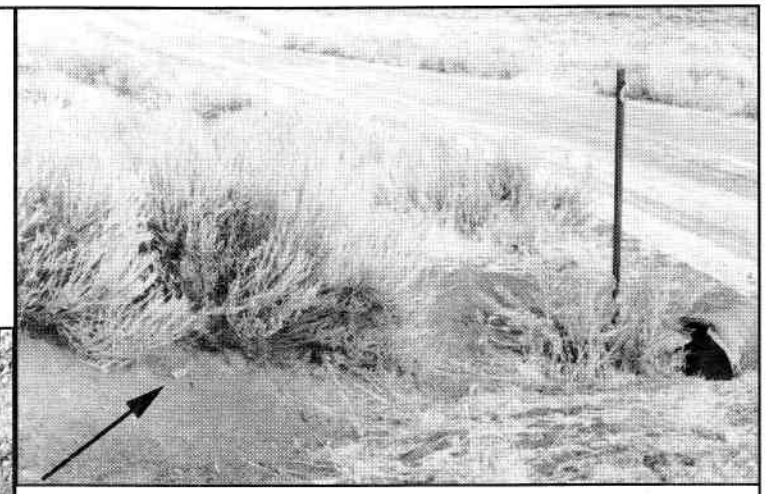
17.
Cover the springs

After mounting and anchoring the cable, I place a cover over the springs to keep them free of grit for better firing. In heavy soil or freezing conditions, I cover the entire throw mechanism.

You can now disguise the trap. My motto is: light is right! Cover the cable support arms and throw mechanism with material that will remain loose and unfrozen, much as with any bedded trap. Whenever possible, I use local vegetative matter to lightly cover and disguise the cable—keeping it free from freezing in place. Large clods, clumps, rocks, etc. can be placed inside the cable loop and around the bait cap. This area remains unaffected by the firing, and soil compaction or freezing is less critical.



I generally place something over the spring area to discourage the canine from stepping on it when it's pulling the cap. Cactus pads, thorns, sticks, stones all work well for this. This is a worthwhile precautionary measure, but not essential. The set's now ready for baiting.



18.
Ready for baiting

This trap will only be effective if you can get the canine to bite and pull the cap. I've found it works well to place a strongly scented lure a few feet from the cap, then a milder, sweeter bait on the cap itself. I want the animal to roll, scratch, pee, etc. away from the cap then come to the set ready to bite. I'm sure every area has its own knowledge and lore concerning what baits will work, and what type of bait cap will work. Trappers who've used M-44's will have some tips for you.

Dogs have been successfully trapped using a piece of steak wired to the cap. Coyotes have been taken using dog food as bait. Marshmallows dipped in scent as a pre-bait and then as the pull cap bait has worked for M-44's. Some studies have shown that coyotes are attracted to objects that visually contrast with the background, i.e., a white cap and a dark background, or dark cap with a snowy background.

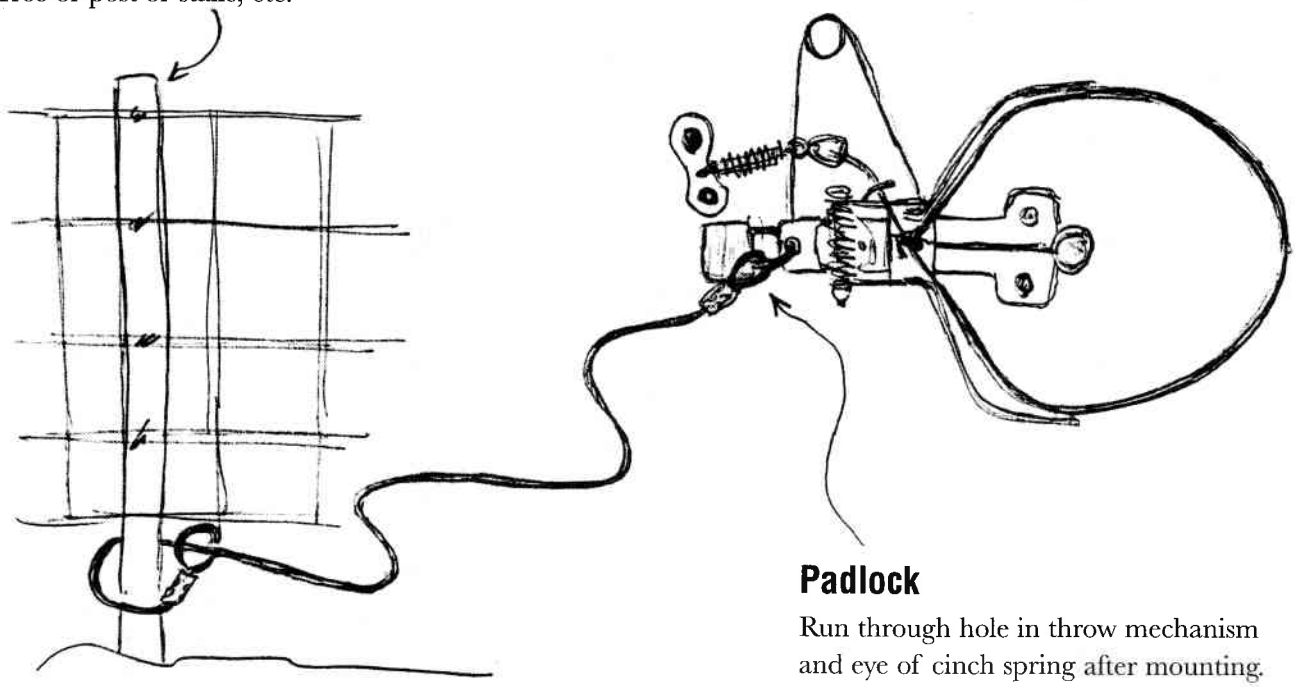
Use your imagination, experience and instinct. As more information, hints and tricks come to light, I'll post them on the website: www.collarum.com

Here's to a safe & humane canine capture!

Security System to Prevent Theft, Using Extender Cable or Chain

The Collarum™ is set & bedded per instructions.

Tree or post or stake, etc.

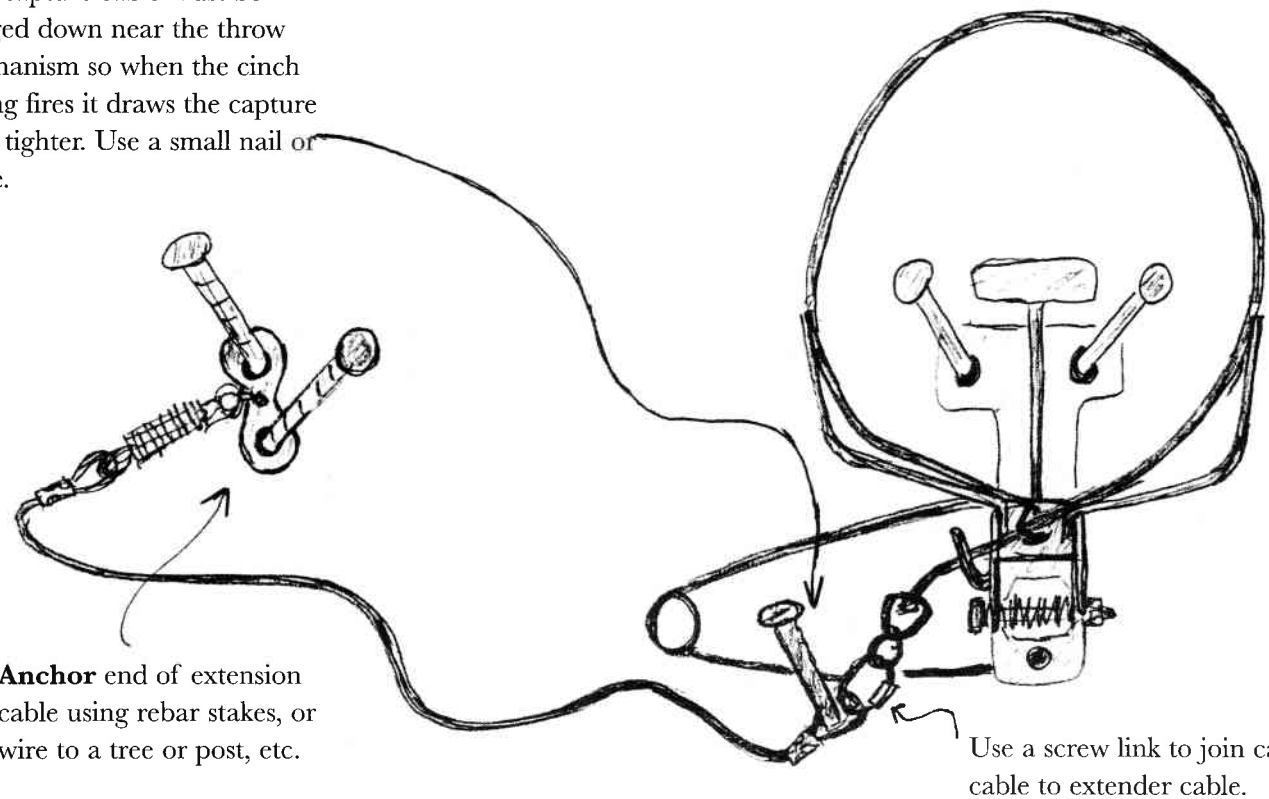


Padlock

Run through hole in throw mechanism and eye of cinch spring after mounting.

Using an Extender Cable or Chain

The capture cable must be pegged down near the throw mechanism so when the cinch spring fires it draws the capture loop tighter. Use a small nail or spike.



Anchor end of extension cable using rebar stakes, or wire to a tree or post, etc.

Use a screw link to join capture cable to extender cable.

Relaxalock™ System

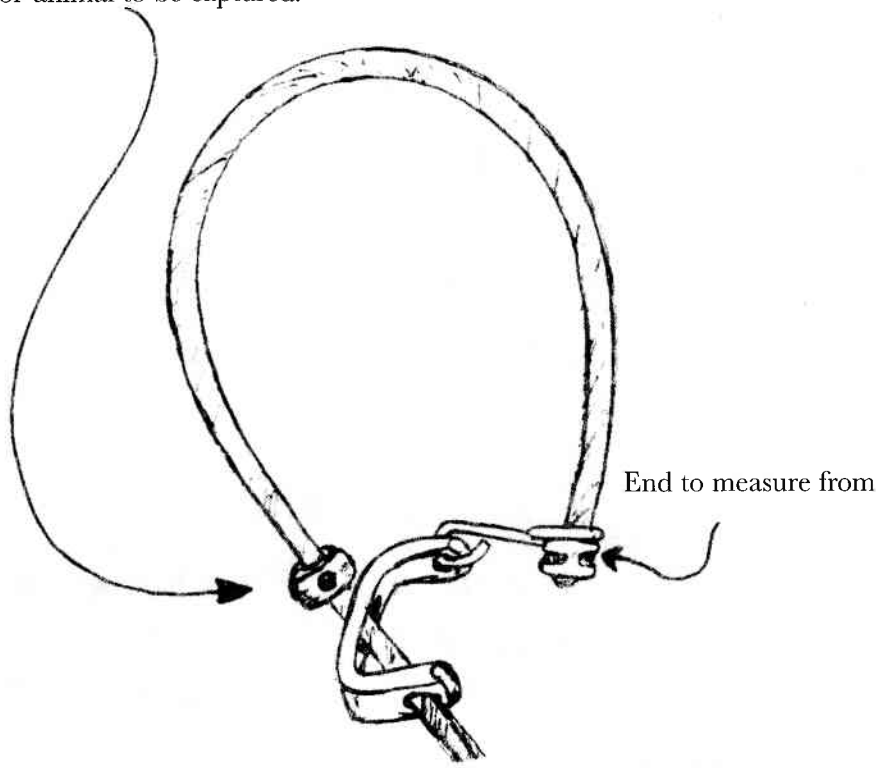
Adjustable stop with set screw is tightened on cable.

ADD 1 INCH to approximate neck size of animal to be captured.

For coyotes: 10" from end

For fox: 7" from end

For dogs: depends on breed—7"-16"



Positioning Relaxalock™ on Throw Mechanism