



## “Yes” on H.172: End recreational and commercial trapping in Vermont!

*H.172 would prohibit recreational and commercial trapping in Vermont. It will end this source of tremendous cruelty and suffering and help balance wildlife populations.*

### Traps are inherently indiscriminate and cruel

By design, traps are indiscriminate and don't distinguish between species – whether it's a companion animal or a Vermont-protected species like pine marten, bald eagle or lynx.

Traps cause serious injury and suffering to animals as they fight to free themselves, including broken legs, dislocated shoulders, lacerations, torn muscles, cuts to mouths and gums, broken teeth, fractures, amputation of digits, and even death. An animal trapped on land may suffer from psychological stress and or pain, starvation, dehydration or predation. If captured in aquatic traps, animals adapted to swimming and diving for long periods, such as beavers and river otters, can slowly suffer from hypoxia even if they struggle before drowning.

Body-crushing (or “Conibear”™) traps intend to kill animals instantly by snapping the spinal column at the base of the neck, but frequently misstrike and inflict agonizing injuries. Studies show that Conibear™ traps generally kill less than 15% of trapped animals instantly, and more than 40% of trapped animals die slow, painful deaths as unintended body parts such as abdomens, heads or limbs are squeezed between the trap bars. Trappers are concerned with undamaged pelts, but not quick and/or humane deaths.

### Trapping doesn't reduce disease and isn't needed to stop populations from irrupting

According to the Centers for Disease Control, the National Academy of Sciences and the World Health Organization, as well as numerous other scientific, public health and veterinary organizations, there is no scientific evidence that trapping controls the spread of disease such as rabies.

In fact, researchers have discovered that trapping may actually exacerbate the spread of disease. By removing mature, immune animals, trappers reduce competition for habitat and make room for newcomers who may not be immune or may even be carriers of disease. In addition, animals infected with rabies do not eat in the latter stages of the disease and thus do not respond to baited traps. Hence, traps set will more often capture healthy animals rather than infected ones.

Trapping is not necessary to “manage” populations. In nature, however, animal populations are largely regulated by food and habitat availability, which naturally influence reproduction and survival.

Trapping is cruel, ineffective, and not “fair chase” hunting. Please vote “yes” on H. 172.