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PUBLIC HEARING

before

SENATE NATURAL RESOURCES AND AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

on

ASSEMBLY, No. 3207

Held:
September 14, 1983
Old Salem County Courthouse
Salem, New Jersey

MEMBERS OF COMMITTEE PRESENT:

Senator Raymond J. Zane, Chairman
Senator Wayne Dumont

ALSO PRESENT:

Denise Drace, Research Assistant
Office of Legislative Services
Aide, Senate Natural Resources and Agriculture Committee

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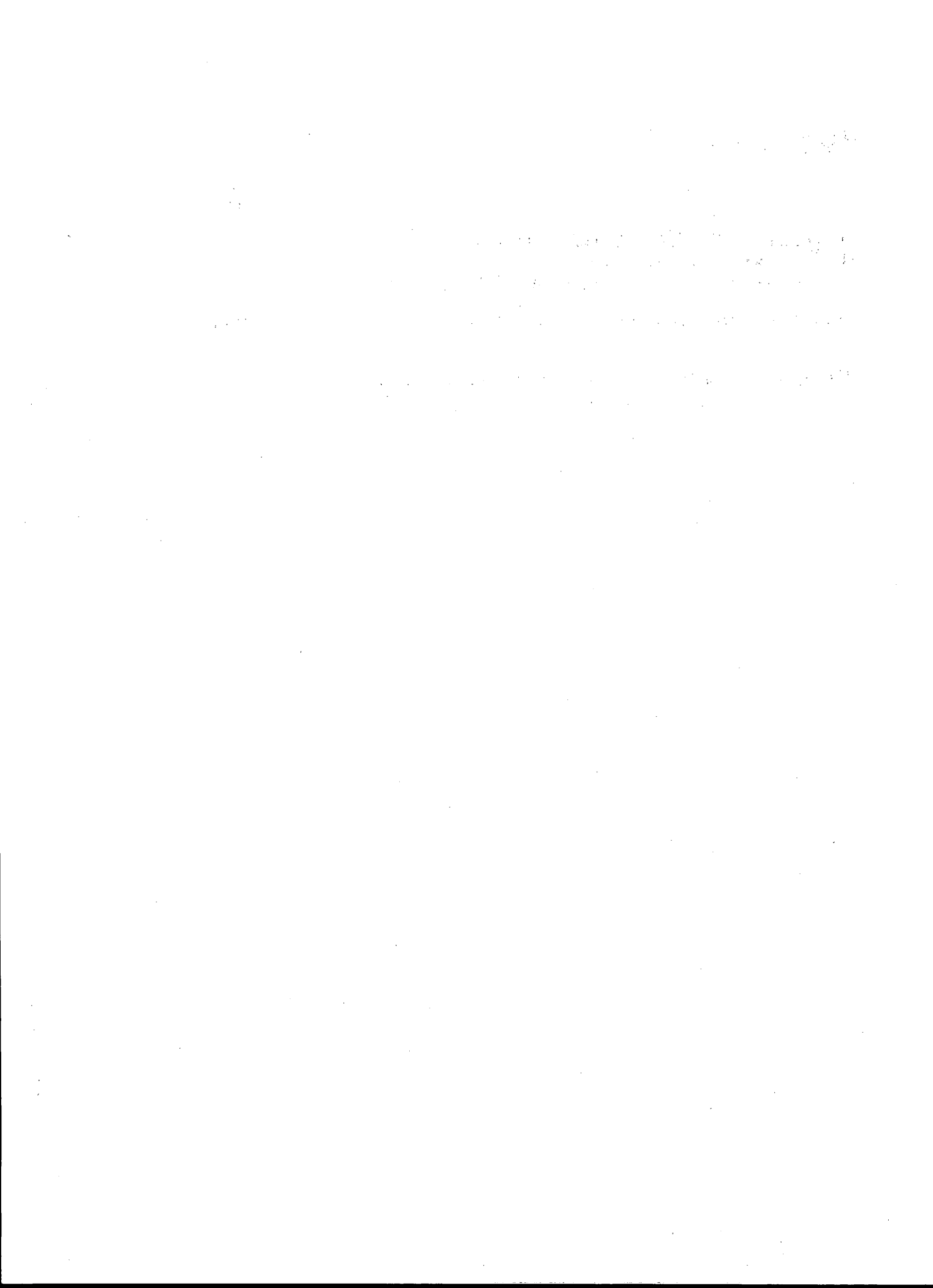
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[OFFICIAL COPY REPRINT]
ASSEMBLY, No. 3207

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 28, 1983

By Assemblymen MAZUR, KARCHER, BAER, McENROE,
WATSON, DORIA, JACKMAN, T. GALLO, COWAN, JANIS-
ZEWSKI, CHARLES, VISOTCKY, HOLLENBECK, PELLY,
Assemblywoman OGDEN, Assemblymen KERN, FELICE,
SCHUBER, FORTUNATO, Assemblywoman PERUN and
Assemblyman SCHWARTZ

AN ACT concerning steel-jaw leghold type animal traps, and re-
pealing section 2 of P. L. 1971, c. 405.

1 BE IT ENACTED *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
2 *of New Jersey:*

1 1. No person shall manufacture, sell, offer for sale, possess,
2 import or transport an animal trap of the steel-jaw leghold type.

1 2. No person shall take or attempt to take any animal by means
2 of a trap of the steel-jaw leghold type.

1 3. The possession of a trap of the steel-jaw leghold type shall
2 be prima facie evidence of a violation of section 2 of this act
3 **except under the circumstances indicated by section 5 of this act*.*

1 4. Mouse and rat traps designed for use in or under buildings
2 shall not be classified as steel-jaw leghold traps for the purposes
3 of this act.

1 5. This act shall not be construed to prevent the ***[exhibition]***
2 **use** of steel-jaw leghold traps **for the purpose of exhibition**
3 by ***[nonprofit]*** humane **or educational institutions and** orga-
4 nizations, or the possession of such traps by a person in the act of
5 turning over the traps to a law enforcement agency.

1 6. A person violating this act shall for each illegal trap involved
2 be fined not less than \$50.00 nor more than \$250.00 for a first

EXPLANATION—Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill
is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter printed in italics *thus* is new matter.

Matter enclosed in asterisks or stars has been adopted as follows:

*—Assembly committee amendments adopted April 25, 1983.

3 offense; not less than \$250.00 nor more than \$500.00 for a second
4 offense; not less than \$500.00 nor more than \$2,500.00, or imprison-
5 ment for six months, or both fine and imprisonment, for a third
6 and each subsequent offense.

1 7. All equipment***[**, animals and pelts**]*** used in*,* or *animals*
2 *and pelts** obtained by a violation of *section 2 of** this act shall
3 be confiscated by **[the]*** *any** law enforcement agency enforcing
4 the act. **This bill shall not be construed to authorize the confisca-*
5 *tion of animals and pelts other than those which have been*
6 *obtained in violation of section 2 of this act and which are either*
7 *held by a trap or in the possession of a violator.**

1 8. Section 2 of P. L. 1971, c. 405 (C. 23:4-38.1) is repealed.

1 9. This act shall take effect 60 days following its enactment.

SENATOR RAYMOND J. ZANE (Chairman): May I have your attention, please? We are going to begin this public hearing. My name is Ray Zane. I am a Senator and Chairman of the Natural Resources and Agriculture Committee.

This public hearing has been called by the Senate Natural Resources and Agriculture Committee to serve as a forum for the discussion of any and all matters which have a bearing on the issue of whether or not the use of the steel-jaw leghold trap should be banned in this State.

The bill under consideration by this Committee is Assembly Bill No. 3207. There is also a companion measure in the Senate, in another Committee.

Bill No. 3207 was sponsored by Assemblyman Mazur of Bergen County. It would prohibit the manufacture, sale, transportation, or use of these traps.

At least a decade has passed since this issue was first considered by our Legislature, and during that time arguments have been raised by proponents and opponents of the ban alike.

Proponents argue that the leghold trap inflicts excruciating pain on animals and that any species of animal, both wild and domestic, can be maimed by this device. They stress that while the leghold trap is the most frequently used trap in the United States, it has been banned by some sixty-three nations of the world.

"Hunting by means of setting a leghold trap and leaving it for an unsuspecting animal to step into, does not constitute sportsmanship." This is one of the arguments that they make.

Opponents to the ban point out that trapping plays a vital role in maintaining the environmental balance in our area in the absence of natural predators. Trapping maintains control of animal population, it reduces the threat of disease -- particularly rabies -- and animal starvation.

Opponents further argue that a blanket prohibition might well expose farmers to significant economic harm, and cause increased prices for consumers at the grocery store.

Crop farmers must be able to protect their crops from animal intrusion. Farmers are concerned with the transmission of disease to their domestic stock through predators.

In addition, opponents claim that the bill, if enacted, would place an almost insurmountable burden on officers charged with the responsibility of enforcing this law.

I seek the viewpoint of all concerned parties today. Basically, what we are hoping to do is to get a consensus -- get a feeling -- that can be taken back to the other members of the legislature, who ultimately will be considering this bill, if it should be released.

Just as a side note, before we begin with the speakers, I hope I have not blackened any hearts; I hope I have not dimmed any minds. I happen to think that part of the legislative process is to take legislation that affects particular areas to those areas. I have had public hearings in other portions of the State since I have been Chairman of this Committee because the legislation involved affected those areas of the State.

I happen to think that this area will probably be the most affected in the event this legislation should pass. That is why the hearing is being held here. If there are those who have chosen to take their position and present it, if you will, on the State House steps at one o'clock, they are doing so in vain, because the Committee will not be there. This will be the only public hearing on this bill by my Committee.

The first speaker today will be Assemblyman Tom Pankok.

A S S E M B L Y M A N T H O M A S A . P A N K O K: Thank you, Senator. My name is Thomas Pankok. I represent, in the Assembly, the 3rd Legislative District, which encompasses eight municipalities in Cumberland County, all of Salem County, and most of Gloucester County.

First of all, I would like to take issue with the statement that was made in the newspapers today, calling my Senator a blackguard, and saying that he was trying to influence people. It is a Senator's job to see that legislation is brought about and looked at. The people are then given the opportunity to say what they want about the legislation, and then a vote is taken on it in Committee. It then goes to the floor of the Senate.

At the last public hearing on this bill, heard by the Assembly Committee, the Chairman of the Committee turned the gavel over to Ben Mazur, who is the Assemblyman sponsoring this bill. The meeting went on until about six o'clock that night. But, at about one thirty that afternoon, Mazur distributed a press release saying, "The public hearing is over, now let's vote on the bill." That is not the democratic way. To wait until the Committee has completed its hearing is the democratic way, not to issue a press release prior to that happening.

So, my hat is off to Senator Zane for bringing us here today, and having guts enough to say, "We are going to hear testimony on this bill by having a public hearing on this bill in the area most affected by it."

There should be more people in the Senate and the Assembly of New Jersey doing things like this.

One of the things that the people who are pushing this bill are referring to is that birds of prey are being trapped in leghold traps. This amounts to one percent, according to some animal hospitals and some divisions of government that we have contacted. About one percent of the birds of prey are injured in the leghold trap, and very, very rarely is it a serious injury.

They talk about domestic animals being caught in leghold traps, and one thing that upsets me the most is the picture of a little white kitten they show, with a leghold trap around its paw. If you look closely at that picture, you will see that the surface in the background is very smooth. It had not been taken out in the swamp or in the meadow, where muskrats are trapped. I have a feeling that the picture may have been staged in a laboratory, because when you trap, you trap in tidal, marshy, wet areas. And, if you have ever seen a cat go out the door in the morning when the dew is on the grass, they vigorously shake their paws, simply because they don't like to be wet. No cat is going to wander into a swamp. So, I really take exception to that type of picture.

Then they talk about dogs being trapped. In fact, we talked to fifty-one veterinary hospitals and they reported that they had three dogs who died of what they suspected might have been a leghold trap

incident. In the last three and one-half years, in this area, there has been one dog injured, and that incident occurred when a lady took her young son, who is less than twelve years old, out alongside a meadow, and the child put the trap out there. He didn't have any idea of what he was doing. He was not a licensed trapper, and the dog got caught in that trap. So, that is the one incident that has happened lately.

In one of the counties of Maryland -- and bear in mind that rabies is moving towards us, up the eastern seaboard -- in trying to control the raccoon and some of the other furbearing animals -- the raccoon is the animal that is suspected of bringing rabies towards us -- they are spending \$300,000 to try and control furbearing animals in that county, and it is not working.

Here in this county, and in the 3rd Legislative District, it is not only not costing the State of New Jersey any money to control these animals because of the leghold trap and because of our trappers, but trappers are actually making money from it, and in many instances they are helping to educate children.

We are trying to prevent that move of rabies up the east coast, and one of the things that we can use to prevent it is the leghold trap.

There are many methods in use to control wildlife in New Jersey, especially in southern New Jersey, and the leghold trap is the only thing that is known to be in use that really works.

As you can probably summarize at this point, I am here in opposition to this very divisive, unnecessary, and stupid piece of legislation. I said that on the Assembly floor, and I am very happy to say it again.

There are many, many people in this area who have put Christmas presents under trees and who have sent children to college and through school, simply because they have been able to trap and make use of those funds to educate their children.

We, here in this part of the State, for almost 310 years, have been managing not only our natural resources and our environment, but we have been controlling the wildlife in this area, because our hunters and our farmers are the best conservationists in the world. No

hunter or trapper is mean to animals, as the people who are proponents of this bill would indicate. Because if a true hunter or a true trapper has a good domestic animal, he takes damn good care of that animal because that animal means a lot to him.

Every one of these farmers has cats and kittens around their farms and they take good care of those animals also. So, don't try to tell me that the trapper is a cruel, inhumane person, because he is not.

We in Salem County, just recently -- I left the Board of Freeholders just as this job was being completed -- spent, with Federal and State funds, in the area of \$300,000 to repair a bank on the Delaware River that was breached, and the reason that bank breached was because the muskrats had bored their homes and nests into the bank. They weakened the bank because of the continuing flow of the tide, and that bank went out. It cost a small fortune to replace it.

The people who have meadows in which they trap control their banks. In fact, this particular bank I spoke of costs about \$12,000 a year to maintain. These people who are trappers, and who are what I consider to be the real conservationists in the area, work continuously -- every trapper and every farmer that I can think of and that I know of in this area of southern New Jersey -- to control their meadows, and to see that their meadows flow properly. There is a great deal of conservation done on their part, as far as keeping their lands intact.

We were in the process of losing almost 900 acres of good meadow and farmland in Salem County because of the breach in this bank. Without the trappers and without the farmers, who trap and conserve their lands, we are in deep trouble here in Salem County.

The muskrat must be controlled and the only sensible and workable method of controlling the muskrat is the leghold trap.

Mr. Chairman, thank you very much. (applause)

SENATOR ZANE: Thank you, Assemblyman.

Assemblyman Guy Muziani, please. Assemblyman Muziani represents Cape May County and Cumberland County -- part of it. I represent the other part of it.

A S S E M B L Y M A N G U Y F. M U Z I A N I: Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, I am here today to reiterate the position I

expressed on the floor of the Assembly in opposition to this legislation.

I didn't know too much about leg traps. There were a number of sportsmen in my area who saw fit to make an appointment to talk to me, and I asked if they would bring a sample of the leg trap that is being used with them. I had no conception of what they were talking about. In doing so, I convinced myself that if what was being said was true and if I was going to be speaking out against this piece of legislation, then I wanted to know, firsthand, exactly what happened when a leg trap was used.

I was not so courageous as to put my hand into the trap without a glove on. I did put a glove on, but it wasn't a thick glove. I put my hand in that trap and I am not going to tell you that I did not feel any pain, because I did. But, I had no bones shattered and my skin was not ruptured. There was no bleeding. And, within two minutes I felt nothing. So, I was convinced that those who were speaking out against the leghold trap had a misconception as to what it really does.

I pursued this subject a little further and I found out that there were approximately 40,000 Americans in this country of ours who have experienced problems with rabies. I was told that if the animal isn't killed immediately after it bites someone in order to determine if it has rabies or not, then the person who was bitten is subjected to the test, which consists of twelve shots into the stomach, and which is very painful. Without the trapping of these animals, this rabies problem could possibly double or triple. That in and of itself was a convincing argument.

Then, of course, I tried to demonstrate on the floor of the House what this trap would do. The sponsor of the bill had two traps that he demonstrated; however, both of them had been outlawed. Those traps dated back, probably, to 1880, when we did have steel-jaw traps. But, they don't exist today. There are no steel-jaw traps being used today. But, I think we were led to believe that, and I was hoping to give my fellow legislators the opportunity to see this trap by demonstrating it to them. I asked for permission to do this, and it was denied. The next time I am going to do it without permission, and I will pay the penalty afterward.

The fact is, if you think about it for a minute, the domesticated animals -- the cows, the sheep, and the chickens -- are slaughtered on a daily basis to provide food and clothing and nobody thinks that is wrong. Nobody thinks that is inhumane. They don't think that is immoral.

Have you ever been to a slaughterhouse? It is not a pretty sight. No one questions the fact that we are doing this kind of killing. It is killing that everyone accepts so that we can provide food and clothing for the population.

Well, I don't know that furbearing animals should be given any different consideration. I don't think they should be thought of as being any different than a cow. Is there more justification for killing a cow than there is for killing a raccoon or a skunk?

So, I was able to digest and evaluate all these arguments, and I came to the conclusion that the sportsmen -- those individuals in this County who do the trapping -- are being dictated to by the north Jersey legislators who control the vote in the Legislature, and I think it is again a question of the north trying to tell the south what to do. I think they are interfering with home rule again. That is something that is very, very common, insofar as how the south has been treated in the past.

I feel that the people themselves, and the counties, should have the prerogative to decide if the sportsmen should be given the opportunity to continue to trap in order to supplement their incomes. This provides a supplemental income for low-income families. It also generates \$22 million that is put into the economy of the State. All of these things are factors that I feel strongly about.

So, I am here today to tell you that I have received over 500 cards from the citizens of Salem, Cumberland, and Cape May Counties. The mail I have received has been ten to one against this legislation.

So, Mr. Chairman, I am here today in the hope that the Senate will look upon this legislation a little differently than they did when it was in the Assembly.

SENATOR ZANE: Thank you very much, Assemblyman Muziani.

Mr. Art Marchland, who is appearing for Assemblyman Joe Chinnici, again from Cumberland and Cape May Counties.

A R T M A R C H L A N D: Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak here today on behalf of Assemblyman Joe Chinnici, who is a Representative of the 1st District, which represents Cape May and Cumberland Counties. Joe could not be here today, although he wanted to be. He was called out of town.

I want to begin by stating, most emphatically, that Assemblyman Chinnici -- as you heard from Assemblyman Muziani -- and Senator Hurley are in absolute opposition to any banning of the steel leghold trap.

First of all, let's begin with a brief synopsis of what a steel-jaw leghold trap is. This trap is the only effective means of harvesting small wild animals, such as muskrats, raccoons, skunks, and fox -- as everyone in this room knows. Ninety-nine percent of the animals that are trapped do not suffer any broken bones. They are either drowned, or they are held until the trapper tends the trap.

Also, with regard to methods of trapping, the Division of Fish and Game offers courses to trappers so that they can learn how to effectively use the steel-jaw leghold trap and to properly tend it.

These traps are tended, under law, every twenty-four hours. And, most trappers tend them every twelve hours. Therefore, no starvation of the animal is entailed.

Let's now turn to the animals that are trapped, specifically the muskrat. The muskrat multiplies as many as four to six times a year, with litters ranging in number from eight to twelve. This could mean as few as thirty-two muskrats to as many as ninety-six muskrats born in any given year from one set of parents. By just taking the lowest figure, thirty-two, these muskrats must be harvested, with only two left to breed again. If not, their balance will be all out of whack and everything will be completely disrupted. This will lead to starvation on the part of the animal, increased destruction of marshes and banks, as you heard Assemblyman Pankok discuss, increased taking of farm produce, and disease in the animal population itself.

The final thing I want to discuss is the economic ramifications of banning the leghold trap. Assemblyman Muziani mentioned that \$22 million in supplemental income is generated from

trapping. Many of the families who deal with trapping and who are into trapping -- about 6,000 families -- are low-income families. I don't think I need to explain the poor economic state of south Jersey, especially the Bay Shore area and Cumberland, Cape May, and Salem Counties, which have the highest unemployment rate in the State. They are close to being the highest unemployed in the nation.

To deprive supplemental income to families who are already affected by the poor economy would be a disgrace.

In closing, let me once again make it absolutely clear that the representatives of the First District, in general, and Assemblyman Chinnici in particular, are absolutely opposed to any banning of the leghold trap, and/or any legislation that would attempt to do this. Thank you.

SENATOR ZANE: Thank you very much. Is Assemblyman Mazur, or one of his representatives, present? Assemblyman Mazur is the sponsor of this bill. I would like to give him the opportunity to speak. (no response)

Assemblyman Mazur, incidentally, is from Bergen County. If you don't know where that is, it is not too far from New York City.

Is there a Doctor Couvillion here? Doctor Couvillion has to catch a plane at six o'clock. Doctor, would you like to speak next?

DOCTOR C. EDWARD COUVILLION: Yes.

SENATOR ZANE: Doctor, would you tell us where you are from?

DOCTOR COUVILLION: I am Doctor Edward Couvillion. I am a wildlife veterinarian affiliated with the Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study at the College of Veterinary Medicine, the University of Georgia. Our organization is an action-oriented cooperative program providing service for the welfare of this nation's wildlife resources and closely related domestic livestock and human health interests. With more than twenty-five years' experience in this field, we have provided unparalleled expertise pertaining to wildlife diseases in the United States.

Our organization has provided expert technical assistance to state wildlife resource agencies, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, the U.S.

Animal Health Association, and Emergency Programs of Veterinary Services, U.S. Department of Agriculture. The collective activities of our organization have resulted in publication of more than 200 articles in numerous scientific journals, symposia, and books. Through significant contributions to wildlife health and allied areas, we have earned a reputation unrivaled in its field.

Based on this experience, the Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study supports the position of the New Jersey Division of Fish, Game, and Wildlife to retain the use of the steel-jaw leghold trap for the benefit of sound furbearer management in New Jersey and elsewhere. There are several reasons for this position.

First, the leghold trap is the most efficient tool for regulating furbearer populations. When harvests are adequate, furbearer populations can be maintained at optimum density relative to available food supplies, and as a result, animals remain in good physical condition, and susceptibility to diseases and parasites is diminished. The reverse is true for unharvested populations. Depletion of food supplies due to excessive competition reduces nutrient intake and results in declining physical condition. Animals are thus predisposed to a multitude of disease agents, and if additional stress factors, such as food crop failures or severe winter conditions, are subsequently imposed, severe losses can occur. This can be prevented by proper harvests under the guidance of wildlife specialists.

Second, trapping allows wise use of surplus furbearers without increasing the amount of pain to which wildlife species are naturally subjected. Although pain associated with sickness and death may not be directly observed in unharvested wildlife populations, suffering most assuredly occurs. In fact, disease, parasites, starvation, and automobile-inflicted trauma frequently result in suffering of greater intensity and duration than that induced by trapping. Thus, there is no ethical justification for curtailing harvests to prevent pain and suffering in wild animals.

Our third reason for opposition to this bill is that the leghold trap is useful for limiting furbearer population densities, thus reducing the potential for transmission of contagious diseases,

such as rabies. Disease transmission generally is enhanced when animal population density is high. In this regard, an important feature of several well-documented outbreaks of raccoon rabies has been the presence of high density raccoon populations in suburban or semi-rural settings, thus increasing interaction among raccoons, humans, pets, and livestock. This problem can be accentuated by destruction of raccoon habitat through urban development, the adaptability of raccoons to suburban existence, and, in addition, the lack of routinely practiced raccoon population control measures, such as trapping.

In many respects, the current expanding rabies outbreak in the mid-Atlantic states is similar to previously documented outbreaks. As of March 1983, 87% of the raccoon rabies in that region was reported from urban and suburban counties where there is no routine raccoon population control.

A statewide ban on the leghold trap may be expected to increase the risk of an outbreak of raccoon rabies in New Jersey. The rabies outbreak in the mid-Atlantic states currently involves four states, which include Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia. In a two-year span, Virginia alone has reported a sixty-fold increase in raccoon rabies. The area of the outbreak has increased twenty-five to fifty miles per year, according to the Center for Disease Control in Atlanta, Georgia. Recently, rabid animals have been reported in Bucks and Montgomery counties, Pennsylvania, along the western border of New Jersey. There is little reason to believe that New Jersey and Delaware will be spared this problem of rabies.

On the strength of this information and extensive experience with wildlife health matters, we, the Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study, support the use of the steel-jaw leghold trap in New Jersey. We hope the Natural Resources and Agriculture Committee will consider the disease and wildlife management benefits of the steel-jaw leghold trap and support the use of this important wildlife management tool in New Jersey.

Senator Zane, I appreciate the opportunity to be here today, and I commend you for your efforts on this bill.

I might also add to my statement several arguments, or points, which will probably come up in the hearing today.

One argument against the use of the steel-jaw leghold trap that hinges on the problem of rabies is that rabies is not a problem in rodents, such as muskrats and other species. However, rabies is only one reason for wanting to use the leghold trap -- one disease. Muskrats are susceptible to a number of different diseases and we think -- and based on our experience, we know -- that when these population densities get high, then muskrats can suffer widespread mortality due to other diseases.

Another argument referable to rabies will be that trapping removes immune animals from populations of animals. This may in fact be true. However, trapping does not remove immune animals in any greater proportion than non-immune animals. In fact, it probably removes immune and non-immune animals in proportion to their representation in the population.

As a matter of fact, none of the experts are certain what immunity in wild animals even means at this stage. We have not come that far in our research on rabies, even though this disease has been around for several hundred years.

Another argument you will hear relates to the translocation of raccoons as being a source of rabies. If that is the case, then the argument holds that this is the cause of the rabies outbreak we are seeing in the mid-Atlantic states, and not because of any recent population densities of raccoons. In fact, we are not certain on that point either. We don't know whether raccoons translocated into the Appalachian area have been the source of rabies infection for raccoons in the mid-Atlantic states. We are not certain of that fact. We do know that studies conducted by the states in that region, where raccoon translocation is a common practice, show that raccoons translocated from the coasts of North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida, and also raccoons from Texas do not survive very well in the wild. As a matter of fact, about two percent, or less, of those raccoons that are translocated in by that method survive. So, that does not seem to be a significant source, or potential source, of rabies -- although it is a possibility, I will admit that.

An additional argument that I have heard and that has been presented is that raccoons are not aggressive when they have rabies.

Studies that have been conducted -- and that are well-documented in a book entitled, "The Natural History of Rabies," -- indicate that in one study forty-seven percent of rabid raccoons showed some form of aggressive behavior -- and those were raccoons that were caught in people's backyards, and who in some way had contact with their domestic animals, their children, or themselves.

Now, I would like to make one other point referable to the effect of trapping in the incidence of rabies. For this purpose I quote a letter, written by a member of our staff, Dr. Victor Nettles, who is the leader of our diagnostic section, and who has been in wildlife disease work for more than ten years himself. This letter was written to Mr. Bob Itchmoney of the New Jersey Division of Fish, Game, and Wildlife, and I will quote it: "After my telephone conversation with you about the proposed anti-trapping bill in the New Jersey State Assembly, I talked with Dr. W. G. Winkler of the Center for Disease Control in Atlanta, Georgia. Dr. Winkler is a well-recognized expert on rabies, and as epidemiologist for the Viral Disease Division, his statements on the relationship between trapping and rabies represent the official position of the Center for Disease Control.

"There is a subtle context in which these statements are made on the role of trapping as a means of rabies control. That is, the trapping activities Dr. Winkler is referring to are taxpayer supported, public agency programs, where animal control agents or government agents are hired on a continual basis to keep wildlife populations down.

"We tend to agree that such trapping programs are not necessary and, in fact, are not cost efficient. In talking with Dr. Winkler, he agreed that his position is not meant to be applied to commercial trapping, and neither he nor the CDC have a position, pro or con, on the effectiveness of commercial trapping as a factor in rabies control."

I will repeat that statement: "Neither Dr. Winkler nor the CDC have a position, pro or con, on the effectiveness of commercial trapping as a factor in rabies control."

To summarize, I think that persons should not be allowed to use statements from CDC to discredit commercial trapping as an adjunct

to rabies control, or to take the material out of context, since these statements are directed only to public financed programs.

Senator, I would like to leave with you a copy of my statement and a copy of the qualifications of the agency from which I come. In addition to that, I have included a recent publication which deals with skunk rabies in the mid-West. I think you will be interested in looking at this material.

SENATOR ZANE: Thank you very much.

Jim Furlong from the Division of Fish and Game.

J A M E S F U R L O N G: Senator Zane, my name is Jim Furlong, and today I am wearing two hats: I am a member of the Fish and Game Council, and I am also President of the Southern New Jersey Furtakers, which is a 900-plus member organization here in southern New Jersey. On behalf of the Southern New Jersey Furtakers, I want to express our thanks to your Committee for holding this hearing here in the muskrat capitol of the world, Salem County.

In addition to that, our thanks go out to you and to your Committee because many of our members cannot get to Trenton when these hearings are held, due to work commitments -- a lot of them are farmers, and so forth. So, again, on behalf of the Southern New Jersey Furtakers we want to take this opportunity to thank you.

My other position, as a member of the Fish and Game Council, requires further explanation. We are charged, basically, with the health and welfare of our wildlife. The members of the Council are sportsmen. They are farmers. They are representatives of the Endangered Species Commission, and they are also soil conservation people. One of the things that we do as Council members is to look out for the health and welfare of the wildlife of our State. We set the bag limits. We set the seasons on harvesting our wildlife.

In order for us to do that, since most of us are not trained biologists, we consult with those professional wildlife managers who do not deal in emotion, like those who oppose this bill do. They deal in the facts, if you will, of wildlife management. For example, one of the basic principles of wildlife management is, any given tract of land can only support so many animals because of the cover, the water, and the food needed for that support. When the population explodes -- we

will cite the muskrat for example -- and any one of those elements is taken away, we have a problem -- we have a twofold problem. One is with the animal itself, where mother nature brings in disease; and, two, in this area specifically, is with the farmers. The crop damage is just outstanding. Many thousands of dollars are lost in this area when the muskrat is not controlled, for whatever reason he is not being controlled.

The point I am trying to make is that in dealing with these professionals, we consult them by asking: "In your opinion, 'Mr. Professional', what is the manner of take and the limits on these particular species that we, as the council members who make the laws, should set?" In the case of the furbearers, they tell us time and time again that the leghold trap is the only efficient method to accomplish our goal.

Now, as a trapper for thirty-five years myself, I can understand that. I have trapped the fox, and the raccoon. I have tried every method that exists to capture a furbearer, and my personal experience has shown that in the case of the animals I have mentioned, the leghold trap is the only effective method.

Again -- and then I will wrap this up -- we do consult with the professionals. We talk with people who are schooled in wildlife management, not -- if you will -- an armchair expert who says it is cruel to trap an animal because he is going to chew his leg off, and that kind of thing. We are dealing with highly-trained personnel, such as the doctor who preceded me.

I would like to make a couple of comments on the bill itself. This was brought up by the members of the Southern New Jersey Furtakers Association, and there are three points involved. The bill speaks to confiscation, or a turning over of the traps to a law enforcement agency. You ladies and gentlemen will have to remember that trapping has taken place in New Jersey since the 1600's, and if this bill were to outlaw trapping within two weeks, or something like that, it is something we have done for several hundred years. Now all of a sudden it is going to be made illegal.

The bill does not speak to any means of compensation. There are over \$800,000 worth of leghold traps in this State, and there is no

means of compensation for those people who own them, when they turn them over to a law enforcement agency.

The other situation speaks to the confiscation of the pelts of the animals caught in leghold traps. There is no visible way to tell the difference, unless an animal is shot, if an animal is caught in a leghold trap or by some other device. So, I speak to that, Senator Zane, because you may want to amend the bill on that issue.

During the Assembly hearing, a mink rancher brought in two mink pelts and held them up. One animal was caught in a leghold trap, and the other one was killed as they would kill a mink at a mink ranch: his neck was broken. You could not tell the difference.

Again, concerning the confiscation issue--

SENATOR ZANE: Let me ask you a question. When a mink is killed on a mink farm, is there any prior preparation for the mink, or do they just pick it up and break its neck?

MR. FURLONG: Essentially, that is it.

SENATOR ZANE: Thank you.

MR. FURLONG: Many of our trappers trap in surrounding states -- again, speaking to the confiscation issue. If our traps were to be outlawed, what do we say to these fellows who buy a license in the surrounding states? The license in Pennsylvania costs a lot more money than we charge here. Then there is New York and Delaware. Again, there is no means of compensation, and I think we have to take a look at that.

Thank you, Senator Zane.

SENATOR ZANE: Thank you very much.

Seated to my left is Senator Dumont, who we affectionately refer to as the "Dean of the Senate." That is because he has been there so long, and he has had a lot of very effective legislation passed. I would just like you to know that he has traveled all the way down from the far corner of north Jersey, where it is rural for the most part, am I correct, Senator?

SENATOR DUMONT: Yes.

SENATOR ZANE: I understand that Henry Foner is now here, is that correct?

HENRY FONER: Yes.

SENATOR ZANE: Mr. Foner, we have a lot of speakers, and I ask that everyone be as concise as possible.

MR. FONER: Senators, in anticipation of your request, I am going to put my testimony into the form of a leaflet that I have prepared. It was distributed on Labor Day at the Labor Day Parade in Asbury Park. It was distributed to 10,000 union members who attended this parade, in order to explain to them the issues involved with the leghold trap. So, I can, in a disciplined way, just read to you what I wrote, because it basically represents my point of view and the point of view of the unions I represent in the fur industry. These include all of the unions in the fur industry, of the American Fur industry itself, whose Committee on Wildlife Legislation and Conservation I head, and for the New Jersey State AFL/CIO, on behalf of Charles Marcianti, the President of the New Jersey State AFL/CIO.

SENATOR ZANE: What is the strength of the AFL/CIO?

MR. FONER: In New Jersey?

SENATOR ZANE: Yes.

MR. FONER: Oh, it runs into several hundred thousand, sir.

SENATOR ZANE: Thank you very much.

MR. FONER: Our own union, the United Food and Commercial Workers has at least 50,000 to 60,000 members in the State of New Jersey.

SENATOR ZANE: And, this a position that is approved by the AFL/CIO?

MR. FONER: That's right, as you will hear in the course of the presentation.

There are now, before the New Jersey State Senate, two bills, A-3207 and S-1575, which would ban the use of the leghold trap in the State. On the surface this might seem to be a humanitarian measure, and that is just what the bills' sponsors are counting on.

The truth is, of course, that one of them, Roger Caris, of the Humane Society in the State, said that when it comes to jobs as opposed to eliminating the wearing of furs, "jobs be damned."

However, there is much more to this issue than meets the eye, and here are the real facts:

All wildlife managers are unanimous in the conviction that the management of furbearer population is essential to their survival. That means that the numbers of these animals must be in proportion to the habitats in which they live. Failure to do this results in starvation and disease, both of which are much crueller fates than being caught in a trap. Just parenthetically, in connection with these wildlife managers, I have just returned from Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where I attended the annual meeting of the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. At this meeting, several hundred wildlife agency representatives from every state in the Union, and from Canada, come together every year to discuss issues of wildlife. These are the paid experts on wildlife management. These are the people who have been trained to take care of the wildlife communities that are our heritage. And, of these people at that convention there was not one who would not agree with this statement: That management of the wildlife species is essential. Wildlife managers are also unanimous in stating that trapping is an essential tool for such wildlife management, and that the leghold trap is the only effective method for taking many of the furbearers that are harvested.

According to public health experts, trapping is also effective in disease control, and this is particularly important now when there are over 600 reported cases of rabies in the states bordering New Jersey. The Atlanta Center for Disease Control expects the epidemic to enter New Jersey this year.

Next, trapping not only provides a livelihood for New Jersey trappers, who earn about \$3.5 million a year, but it also provides the raw material for a major American industry, the fur industry, which has a gross product of about \$1 billion a year. It also helps to provide jobs, nationwide, for about 250,000 workers.

I must insert here, Senator, that at the last hearing I attended, which was held in Trenton, the proponents of this bill made light of this industry. They said that it did not represent much as far as the State of New Jersey was concerned. Well, this is just not true, as you will hear when I proceed with my statement.

As New Jerseyans, you should consider the impact the ban on trapping would have on the economy of this State, especially since the largest individual retail fur operation in the world, the Flemington Fur Company, is located in the State of New Jersey, in Flemington. Another major fur retailer, Antonivich Brothers, is located in West Paterson, New Jersey. These two retailers account for literally millions of dollars in income for the State of New Jersey in one form or another. In addition, I can tell you that presently trapped furs represent about 50% of the raw material that is used in the fur industry as a whole -- and this includes New Jersey, Ohio, and all the other states in the Union. I also want to point out with respect to New Jersey that when we speak of the greater New York metropolitan area, we include those sections of northern New Jersey in which many of our members live, and which is deeply woven into the economic life of New York City. I need not tell you that New York City is the world center of the fur industry.

Next, the most prominent fur dying plant in the world, Superior Dyed Furs, is located in Passaic, New Jersey. This plant, provides employment for minority workers. They are in our union. They are practically-- I would say about eighty percent of the workers are black workers. They are earning a decent living in this plant, and I would say that depriving them of this livelihood would be a major disaster as far as we are concerned, and I think it would be harmful to the State as well.

Next, one of the leading fur dressing plants in the United States, Crown Monarch, is located in Newark, New Jersey. And, finally, in addition to that, there are close to 500 fur workers -- and we can tell you this as a result of a survey we made in connection with this bill -- who live in New Jersey and who commute daily to and from the New York fur market. These include women and men. They are people who work as cutters, operators, etc. They work in every segment of the fur industry, and at the end of the day they take buses and go back to Fort Lee, to Teaneck, or to one of the other communities in the State of New Jersey.

So, when we speak of the impact of banning trapping as being minimal, I must tell you this is really a distortion and not in conformity with the facts.

Those are some of the reasons that prompted the national AFL/CIO to adopt a resolution at its 1977 Los Angeles Convention, which is still part of AFL/CIO policy and which states: "This convention of the AFL/CIO opposes any effort to outlaw the leghold trap or to ban the trapping of furbearing animals, and calls upon all of its affiliates, State and city central labor bodies and its members, to oppose such efforts when they take place in their respective areas."

I might tell you, gentlemen on the Committee, that this has been tested by vote in at least two states. In Ohio there was a vote taken in 1977, and the AFL/CIO in Ohio supported the position of the fur industry, the wildlife community, and the sportsmen. As a result, that attempt to enact a ban on the leghold trap in Ohio was defeated by a vote of two to one. And, three years later, in Oregon, a similar attempt was made. The AFL/CIO in Oregon, as a result of the resolution supported the position of the fur industry, the sportsmen, the wildlife managers, and the trappers, and as a result, the attempt in Oregon was similarly defeated by a vote of two to one. Those are the only instances where this issue has been put to popular vote. In Ohio, in 1977, they attempted to ban the leghold trap and it was defeated, two to one. In Oregon, in 1980, an attempt to ban the leghold trap was defeated by a vote of two to one. In each instance, as a result of our bringing the message to the people and educating them with the true facts about wildlife and the impact of this ban upon the economy, upon working people, and upon jobs, the voters in those two states, seeing the merits of our position, voted to stop the ban.

I would like to add just one other word, sir, and I thank you for the opportunity to testify -- one other word. I know you will be hearing today from people who are in favor of this measure. I would suggest that a question be directed to them, as it was during a television program that I participated in a few months ago with a representative of the Friends of Animals, and that question was: "Is it only the leghold trap that you are campaigning against? Or, is it not true that you are opposed to the consumptive use of any form of wildlife by our society?" I think if you press that question, you will find that the leghold trap is simply the tip of the iceberg. What we are really talking about is an attempt to deprive our society of making

consumptive use of wildlife products, products that are really very significant and very important to our community, and to a continued lifestyle that our society is used to. I think if you raise this issue, you will find that when they are pressed for an answer, they are not talking about the leghold trap at all; they are talking about an attempt to ban the use of any and all furs further down the road. Then you will find, later on, that they will also be talking about hunting and fishing in an attempt to get at the roots of the whole wildlife sportsmen's heritage in this country. Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify.

SENATOR ZANE: Thank you. Mr. Foner, are you likely to communicate your position to other members of the Senate at this time?

MR. FONER: Sir, we are in the midst of a campaign, and the members of the United Food and Commercial Workers are in the process of sending post cards to all the Senators who represent their areas. I must tell you that the same thing will probably be done by working people from other unions we are reaching as well.

SENATOR ZANE: Thank you very much. Senator Dumont, do you have any questions?

SENATOR DUMONT: Are those going to be form cards that simply have to be signed?

MR. FONER: Well, sir, after years of experience I have found that the hardest thing to do in this political life of ours is to get people to write letters in 1983. So, I am afraid they will be form cards, but they will be signed only after thorough discussion in shops and at meetings throughout the State. And, the workers who sign them will know exactly what the issues are and what they are signing.

SENATOR DUMONT: All right.

SENATOR ZANE: Are there any other questions? (no response)
Thank you very much.

Is Samuel Donelson present?

SAMUEL DONELSON: Senators, ladies and gentlemen, my name is Sam Donelson, Township Committeeman for Lower Alloways Creek. I have a position paper that I would like to read, and maybe make some comments in addition to that.

As a member of the Township Committee of Lower Alloways Creek, I am here to testify on behalf of the trappers and property owners in opposition of Assembly Bill 3207. I too will have to agree wholeheartedly with the position statement of the Division of Fish, Game, and Wildlife, dated 4/27/83, which says, "This legislation will cause economic hardship, contribute to the spread of dangerous, inhumane diseases that affect wildlife, pets, people, and will result in the wholesale waste of renewable wildlife resources." Needless to say, you have heard, and will hear again today, statistical data refuting and/or supporting why this bill should be either passed or defeated.

It certainly would appear that the supporters of this bill have no regard for, or could care less about, the overall impact of the proposed legislation. Lower Alloways Creek Township is comprised of approximately forty-eight square miles, of which one-third is either wetland or marsh. These wetlands and marshy areas are conducive to trapping and banked to prevent either tidal or fresh water from entering upon the drylands. Without the allowance of trapping with leghold traps, over-population of muskrats within the "banked-in" areas would create "eat-outs" by those animals causing breaches which would eventually allow the drylands as well as marsh lands to become devoid of vegetation and eventually barren, which in effect would render the dry, as well as the marshlands, useless for several years. As you can see, wild animals and birds would not have the benefit of what they currently have.

Additionally, within our Township we have a continual mosquito control program in conjunction with the Salem County Mosquito Commission which would defeat all efforts to control the mosquito population to date.

There have been, from time to time, many pieces of correspondence on the part of humane groups alluding to the fact that there are numerous pets such as cats and dogs that are caught in those traps. Even most recently -- as the Senator pointed out in the newspaper article, "Today's Sunbeam", page 5, -- it was stated: "The leghold trap stands in readiness to take an eagle, cat, or dog, as well as a friendly raccoon." However, the truth of the matter is that very

few of these animals are caught in a leghold trap. This is supported by a survey made by our Township Clerk and Deputy Clerk as recently as Monday and Tuesday of this week, September 12th and 13th. The survey included fifty-seven veterinarians and veterinarian hospitals that would give out this type of information.

Those contacted were in Salem, Cumberland, Atlantic, Gloucester, Cape May, and Burlington Counties, and a few from Ocean County, as well as Camden County. The survey was to determine whether or not those veterinarians have treated any animals in the past year that may have been caught in leghold traps.

I am providing an attachment for your edification of those veterinarians that were contacted, supporting this survey. From the fifty-seven contacts that were made, there was a total of seven incidents, some of which were not within the past year. Some happened within the past five years.

I would like to just address those seven incidents as reported by the counties they happened in. In Salem County, three veterinarians were contacted and there were no incidents.

In Cumberland County, of those that were contacted, one reported an incident.

In Atlantic County there was one incident.

In Gloucester County there were two incidents.

In Cape May County there was one incident.

In Burlington County there were two incidents.

And, of those contacted in Ocean County, there were two incidents reported.

Out of five contacts in Camden County, no incidents were reported.

Comments made by those veterinarians and/or veterinarian hospitals were of such a nature that they felt that rather than placing emphasis upon animals caught in traps, perhaps more emphasis should be placed on animals that were hit by automobiles. As one can appreciate, there are numerous fine animals hit by automobiles.

The overall feeling was that the amount of animals caught in traps are miniscule, and should almost not even be considered.

As I mentioned -- concerning the mosquito control program -- in my statement, our Township alone spends upwards of approximately -- counting the commitment to the Salem Mosquito Commission -- \$125,000 annually. In addition to that, we put at least that much into the effort to purchase machinery, as well as to hire equipment and manpower. We would definitely not like to see the passage of this bill on that premise alone.

As I pointed out earlier, the economic impact, which has already been addressed by others, would have devastating effects on people within our Township. They count upon trapping as a method and means of livelihood.

The refutation, on the part of the statistical data that we acquired, I think speaks for itself. As one member of the Township Committee of Lower Alloways Creek, I would respectfully request the defeat of this bill. In addition, I would request that the overall ramifications of additional bills of this nature be taken into account before they are passed.

Thank you very much.

SENATOR ZANE: Mr. Donelson?

MR. DONELSON: Yes, sir?

SENATOR ZANE: You have been in public office in Lower Alloways Creek for the past ten years, or thereabouts?

MR. DONELSON: Twelve years.

SENATOR ZANE: Twelve years? During that period of time, were you aware of any incidents where animals, other than those which were being sought, were seriously injured in traps?

MR. DONELSON: None, to the best of my knowledge, sir.

SENATOR ZANE: Lower Alloways Creek is well known for trapping, am I correct?

MR. DONELSON: That is absolutely correct.

SENATOR ZANE: Has Lower Alloways Creek adopted any form of animal as its, I don't want to say "mascot" -- I don't know what to call it, so I will call it its "emblem"?

MR. DONELSON: Yes.

SENATOR ZANE: What is that animal?

MR. DONELSON: It is the muskrat. We are proud of the muskrat. We have adopted it as our mascot, depicting our way of life. Again, to emphasize, we are very proud of that fact.

SENATOR ZANE: And, you know of no serious incidents with other animals; is that your testimony?

MR. DONELSON: That is correct.

SENATOR ZANE: Thank you very much.

MR. DONELSON: You're welcome.

SENATOR ZANE: Senator, do you have any questions?

SENATOR DUMONT: Not right now.

SENATOR ZANE: Is Doctor John Grandy from the Humane Society of the United States here? (affirmative response)

Doctor, I am wondering if you missed the ad we were discussing?

DOCTOR JOHN GRANDY: Actually, I did miss the ad.

SENATOR ZANE: Really?

DOCTOR GRANDY: It was signed by an organization called The Friends of Animals, not by the Humane Society.

SENATOR ZANE: Thank you very much.

DOCTOR GRANDY: You bring up an interesting point. While we appreciate the opportunity to be here and testify, a lot of our members did object to having the hearing here.

SENATOR ZANE: Doctor, where are you from?

DOCTOR GRANDY: Washington.

SENATOR ZANE: Washington, D.C.?

DOCTOR GRANDY: Yes, D.C.

I want to say that while we were somewhat disturbed by this, we felt that we had to make our presentation here, and we had to make a full record. To that end, I will be happy to answer questions.

SENATOR ZANE: You do acknowledge that the decision as to where a Committee holds a public hearing is left with that Committee, do you not?

DOCTOR GRANDY: I don't know how New Jersey works.

SENATOR ZANE: I see. That is the way it works, Doctor. We generally try to take important issues to the areas that are affected by them.

The decision as to where a Committee meeting is to be held is left to the Committee, collectively. I think that taking an important issue to the area that is affected by that issue is really what government should do. It should not necessarily sit in Trenton. I don't think there are that many people who are inconvenienced by this and I don't think some of these people who are here today would have had the opportunity to respond if they all had to take time off from work and run to Trenton and spend the day there. That is why it is being held here, Doctor. We make no apologies whatsoever for that.

If there is another hearing on this bill -- should that be the case -- again, we will push to have it held in an area that is affected by this piece of legislation.

DOCTOR GRANDY: I understand. On the other hand, I don't want the record to indicate, or seem to indicate, that I am making an apology, because some of our members found it difficult to be here and they decided that they would boycott the hearing on that basis.

My name is John Grandy. I am Vice President for Wildlife and Environment with the Humane Society of the United States. I am a professional wildlife manager, and I hold a Ph.D. in wildlife ecology from the University of Massachusetts. I have served on the Predator Control Advisory Committee to the Secretary of the Interior and have been qualified in U.S. District Court on many occasions as an expert on predatory animals.

The Humane Society of the United States is a national animal welfare organization, headquartered in Washington, D.C. I am here today representing our 200,000 national members and constituents, and our Mid-Atlantic Regional Office in Bedminster, New Jersey, and the 25,000 members it serves.

Once again, humanitarians and animal welfare agencies have come to the New Jersey Legislature to appeal for the abolition of the leghold trap as a mechanism for the commercial exploitation of New Jersey's wildlife. The fundamental source of conflict between trappers and humanitarians remains unchanged. While the steel-jaw trap may be a convenient device for killing animals, it is also an instrument that routinely causes incredible animal suffering.

The inherent cruelty of the steel-jaw trap is a matter of record. The Humane Society has identified twenty-two scientific studies confirming that the steel-jaw trap routinely causes injuries. The Federal Provincial Committee for Humane Trapping in Canada conducted a \$1,300,000, seven-year study of animal traps, under the auspices of the Canadian government. They concluded that, "In summary, research and field studies have demonstrated that the standard steel-jaw leghold trap is non-specific, causes injury in all species studied, and results in observable distress and probably pain in many individuals." Indeed, there are innumerable reports of pets being caught in steel-jaw traps within New Jersey. The evidence is overwhelming that the steel-jaw trap is an instrument of animal suffering.

The trapping industry's response to this charge has sometimes been acrimonious. Trappers have impugned the knowledge, veracity, and motives of animal welfare workers -- even going so far as to publicly accuse me of being "pro-rabies." They have sought to characterize our complaints as unfounded and they have decried what they call the humane movement's "appeal to emotions."

Meanwhile, trappers persist in putting forward the same tired excuses for the steel-jaw trap that have been popular seemingly since Charles Darwin wrote on this issue in August, 1863. In defense of the steel-jaw trap, trappers conjure the specters of diseased animals, mouths frothing and teeth bared, invading city streets to prey on our children. They paint vivid portraits of barren woodlands denuded by starving animals, and they speak of economic ruin and poverty.

As a wildlife biologist, I can assure the members of the New Jersey Legislature that the enactment of A-3207 will not result in dire biological damage to the ecosystems and habitats inhabited by furbearers in the State.

The defense of the steel jaw trap is, in large part, predicated on the assertion that trappers, in removing wild animals, are eliminating disease-carrying animals that threaten public health. Rabies is the disease most commonly cited as being suppressed by trappers. The relationship between trapping and rabies merits the careful consideration of this Committee. As you know, the mid-Atlantic

region has been in the midst of a rabies epizootic, reported to be the worst outbreak of rabies in the past decade.

On careful scrutiny, the trappers' self-proclaimed role as guardians of the public health proves to be nothing more than an illogical rationalization designed to justify inhumane trapping to an unknowing public. There are several telling flaws in the argument that commercial animal trapping is creating a barrier against rabies -- not the least of which is the continued incidence of rabies in Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia -- all states with extensive trapping activity.

Nationally, three species -- muskrat, nutria, and beaver -- account for approximately two-thirds of the annual kill by trappers. These species are members of the taxonomic order rodentia. While all warm-blooded animals can contract rabies, it is not endemic in rodents. When you experimentally infect these animals with rabies, they apparently do not produce enough of the virus to transmit it. A rodent has never been reported to be responsible for a case of human rabies anywhere in the world. Thus, trappers spend a majority of their time catching wild animals that are not prone to develop or transmit rabies.

Of the species classified by the Center for Disease Control as being significant carriers of rabies, only five -- striped and spotted skunks, red and grey foxes, and raccoons -- are taken by trappers, and they account for only fourteen percent of the animals they annually kill. Often, pelt prices are the determining factor in the setting of traps. Trappers will relentlessly pursue species, such as the bobcats, whose pelts offer the promise of high cash payments, regardless of rabies.

Generally, the number of potential rabies carriers removed by trappers is inconsequential. For example, there is little market for skunk pelts. During a ten-year period, ending in 1976, trappers nationwide each year killed an average of only 4,091 spotted skunks and 48,461 striped skunks, despite the fact these animals are supposedly a primary reservoir of rabies. Moreover, trappers claim that they are particularly successful in suppressing fox rabies.

Dr. Suzanne Jenkins, an E.I.S. Officer with the Center for Disease Control, reported in March of this year, however, that rabies moves through a population of foxes too quickly to be affected by trapping. The fox is extremely susceptible to rabies, requires less virus to develop symptoms, and may become debilitated and die so quickly that there is often not enough time for it to infect another animal, much less be caught by a trapper claiming to be a guardian of public health. CDC regards fox rabies as a cyclical problem. Dr. Jenkins remarked, "Cases of fox rabies really burn out on their own."

Additionally, we must remember that the Division of Fish, Game, and Wildlife presumably attempts to manage populations of furbearing animals on a sustainable-yield basis. Annual quotas are set at levels which they expect will assure that the number of animals taken during a season is less than required for populations to replenish themselves in time for the succeeding trapping season. This has been made clear earlier today by other witnesses.

In theory, sufficient numbers of animals are left to maintain the size of colonies through breeding. With gains in numbers during the breeding season, a colony will presumably be restored to its original number in time for the next trapping season. The concept of sustainable yield is advantageous to trappers because it is intended to assure them of a continuous and stable supply of furbearers. Yet, it is blatantly inconsistent with the alleged objective of suppressing rabies. After all, trapping or other forms of removal can affectively suppress rabies only if we virtually annihilate wildlife populations. It would be impossible to eliminate all reservoirs of rabies in wildlife and, of course, such destruction of wildlife would be unacceptable to the public.

In short, the defense of the steel-jaw trap is, in large part, predicated on the assertion that trappers, in removing wild animals, are reducing the densities of populations to reduce disease. Thus, trappers claim there should be less chance for interaction among animals and less opportunity for the transmission of disease. However, Mr. Chairman, upon reflection, it is obvious that using the non-selective leghold trap to eliminate rabies makes no more sense than randomly shooting people to eliminate cancer.

Moreover, trapping may actually have a detrimental effect on attempts to control rabies. Rabies outbreaks tend to be species specific. The current rabies epizootic has been confined largely to raccoons. Interestingly, the raccoon, when exposed to the rabies virus, does not always contract the disease. Instead, it can develop serum-neutralizing antibodies in its blood. Those antibodies give the raccoon a natural immunity to rabies. At the height of an outbreak, between thirty percent to fifty percent of the surviving raccoons will be immune to rabies. Trapping unavoidably results in immune animals being killed, thereby creating a space for susceptible animals to take up residence. In this way, trapping may actually feed rabies outbreaks in raccoons.

Furthermore, Texas continues to lead the nation in the number of rabies cases among wild animals. Doctor William Bilderback of the Texas State Board of Health contends that high prices for the pelts of raccoons, foxes, and other predatory species has led to the wholesale trapping of those animals. This generally has made life easier for the skunk, which reportedly is the principal carrier of rabies in Texas.

Trapping also has a role in fueling the mid-Atlantic rabies outbreak, which is another major outbreak ongoing in the United States. In the northeast, trapping pressure on raccoons is intense. Raccoon hunters and trappers aggressively compete for the available raccoons. This circumstance led hunting clubs to import raccoons into Virginia, West Virginia, and Pennsylvania. The Center for Disease Control has documented that some of the animals that were translocated from Texas and Florida were, in fact, rabid and C.D.C. believes that these animals were the origin of the current rabies epizootic in this region.

I would like to state that one of the speakers pointed out that many of those animals died and therefore they wouldn't have transmitted rabies. It seems to me that it only takes a couple, and unless they can document that they all died, Doctor Jenkins and the Center for Disease Control are probably correct.

SENATOR ZANE: Doctor, I am a little confused. Why are you for the bill?

DOCTOR GRANDY: Why am I for it?

SENATOR ZANE: Why are you for the bill? As I understand your testimony, you are indicating that you are not in favor of the trap because the trap does not really control disease. That is the thrust I am getting. Tell me why you are in favor of the bill.

DOCTOR GRANDY: If you will let me finish my statement, maybe I will do that. And then, if you have additional questions, I will answer them.

Undoubtedly, opponents of A-3207 will also speak of the adverse economic consequences of a ban against the steel-jaw trap. Last year, the fur industry reported retail sales in excess of one billion dollars. But, the net worth of an industry is a poor index of its character or social acceptability. Moreover, the steel-jaw trap is not irreplaceable nor is it essential to the prosperity of the industry. Of the \$1.2 billion in revenues collected by the industry, approximately thirty percent resulted from the sale of imported goods. Ranch-reared animals accounted for fifty-five percent of domestic production. Thus, trapping actually accounted for one-third of retail dollar sales. When financial data is adjusted to reflect the use of instant-kill traps, we find that a national ban on the steel-jaw trap would affect only twelve percent of the industry's gross profit.

When reduced to its fundamental component, the controversy over the steel-jaw trap is exposed as a conflict between economic interests and those who would see the wildlife assured, not assaulted. Trapping is a leisure activity conducted to put extra money in the pockets of trappers, and for recreation. These are not excuses for the blatant, avoidable, destructive animal cruelty.

I hope that Charles Darwin's comments on this issue may serve as an inspiration to this Committee and guide your deliberations on the future of the steel-jaw trap in New Jersey.

Darwin wrote, and I quote: "Some who reflect upon this subject for the first time will wonder how such cruelty could have been permitted to continue in these days of civilization; and no doubt if men of education saw with their own eyes what takes place under their sanction, the system would have been put to an end long ago. We shall be told that setting steel traps is the only way to preserve game, but we cannot believe that Englishmen, when their attention is once drawn

to the case, will let even this motive weigh against so fearful an amount of cruelty."

The steel-jaw trap evokes strong emotions, and understandably so. The cruelty of the trap and wildlife destruction is demonstrable. If the choice seems an emotional one, it is because trapping involves an individual life cruelly ended, and that is an emotional subject indeed.

To answer your question, Senator, if I have not adequately answered it thus far, we are against the leghold trap and for the bill because the trap is an undeniable instrument of animal cruelty and it is unnecessary in this society. Thank you.

SENATOR ZANE: Doctor, do you have a position on hunting?

DOCTOR GRANDY: Yes, sir.

SENATOR ZANE: What is your position on hunting?

DOCTOR GRANDY: The position of the Humane Society in the United States is that sport hunting -- that is killing for fun -- is morally wrong and should be abolished.

SENATOR ZANE: Therefore, you oppose hunting?

DOCTOR GRANDY: We oppose sport hunting. We understand, as you do, Senator, that animals sometimes have to be killed. They have to be killed as a matter of management. They have to be killed for their own good. In such cases, when that occurs, we ask only that it be done in a way which is as humane as possible.

As I said, we take the position that hunting for fun, or hunting for sport -- that is, having fun killing animals -- is morally wrong.

SENATOR ZANE: Doctor, what would be your position with those who tell us in the Legislature -- those from Fish and Game, and the Department of Agriculture, and others -- that if we didn't have hunting and "harvesting", as they frequently refer to it, we would have widespread crop damage. We would also have widespread starvation among many wild animals. That is just the flavor of some of the things we were told. Do you refute those arguments?

DOCTOR GRANDY: It is hard to--

SENATOR ZANE: It doesn't really work anyhow, Doctor.

DOCTOR GRANDY: It doesn't work. It is difficult to refute generalities which are sometimes true, but often not. My analysis as a professional has been that most often when those arguments are raised, they are inaccurate based on the data available, but one is never presented with them specifically; one is only presented with them as generalities.

As I said, we understand -- the Humane Society in the United States understands -- the idea that animals sometimes have to be killed. There are some situations where that has to occur. We are simply unwilling to approve and, indeed we obviously oppose an instrument that is non-selective and undeniably cruel as a general panacea for situations which are only rarely demonstrable.

SENATOR ZANE: Do you have any questions, Senator Dumont?

SENATOR DUMONT: Doctor, are you also opposed to fishing?

DOCTOR GRANDY: No, sir. Our directors have never taken a position on that.

SENATOR DUMONT: It is a sport. You are not opposed to sport fishing, as you are opposed to sport hunting?

DOCTOR GRANDY: No.

SENATOR DUMONT: Suppose this bill were to pass and be signed into law, would you stop your opposition to trapping, or are you simply concerned about leghold traps? Would you try to ban all kinds of trapping?

DOCTOR GRANDY: We would have to see what that amounted to, sir. We are interested as an organization in ensuring that animal cruelty does not occur. We see the leghold trap as being one of the primary perpetrators of that in this society. There are plenty of other places that still use it, unfortunately. As you know, it has been banned in Florida by regulation. It has been banned in Massachusetts. We have plenty of other areas on which we should concentrate our efforts. But, if killing of animals was occurring in New Jersey through other means that were equally, or that turned out to be more diabolically cruel, I am certain you would see us back.

SENATOR DUMONT: Well, I think all of us have the same love of animals. Certainly, I do, whether they be wild or domestic. I am sure every member of your organization feels this way, but there are

still other considerations that have to be considered, as well as what your testimony indicates.

DOCTOR GRANDY: I understand that, sir.

SENATOR DUMONT: Thank you.

SENATOR ZANE: Let me just ask you one other question. How would you suggest some of the animals we are discussing, animals that would be taken by the leghold trap, be taken as an alternative?

DOCTOR GRANDY: Do you mean if they have to be killed because of some sort of ecological damage?

SENATOR ZANE: Well, let's assume as a given, just for a moment, that there is a balance that is maintained by trapping. And, let's assume, also as a given, that this balance should be maintained because of banks that are eroded, because of crops that are lost, etc. Let's assume as a given that the same level of taking should be maintained -- the same level of taking. How would you suggest, in the alternative, that should be done?

DOCTOR GRANDY: First of all, obviously I cannot accept the premise on which the question is based, primarily because as I have said here this morning, and as others have said, I have heard of one bank in one town where some damage occurred.

SENATOR ZANE: Doctor, what I am really looking for is, what would be your alternative method? I am asking you to take it as a given.

DOCTOR GRANDY: There is the foot-snare, there is the box trap, which is useful in areas and in situations where specific animals are causing specific damage and one wants to remove them from the area. There are obviously quick-kill traps, for the unusual situation where the removal of animals of one sort or another has to be done through lethal means.

I want to point out, since you brought up the question, predatory animals. There has been a lot of talk here today about over-population of animals, and that is the reason why we have to control them. In general, we have population regulation mechanisms which don't even allow them to overpopulate, because their birth rate is dependent upon the prey that is available for them to consume. So, it is impossible to generalize in the manner that you are, in effect,

asking me to do in order to answer this question. I can't say, "Well, we have to have a certain level for all these things."

If there are cases where animals have to be killed -- it has to be done -- then it ought to be done in the most humane manner possible, and the trap, as we know it, doesn't fill that bill.

SENATOR ZANE: Thank you very much, Doctor.

Is Calvin Hill here, please? I would like to hear from a trapper.

MEMBER OF AUDIENCE: He is outside.

SENATOR ZANE: Would someone like to tell Calvin that he is the next witness?

CALVIN T. HILL: I am President of the New Jersey Fur Farmers' Association, and we would like to go on record in opposition to the Trapping Bill, A-3207, banning the use of the leghold trap.

The fur farmer is an independent businessman who is self-employed. By doing this type of work, he creates a lot of jobs for other people. The people that would be most affected would be those who make hip boots, outboard motors, boats, trapping supplies, etc. This is only naming a few.

So, when Mrs. Susan Russell says, "jobs be damned," it won't only be my job that is affected, it will be the jobs of thousands of others as well.

Mrs. Susan Russell stated in a newspaper article today that there are dozens of other ways to catch animals.

Today the 330, 220 conibear traps are outlawed, which leaves us with only the 110 conibear trap. If they take the steel-jaw trap away, we will have nothing left. The box trap is not one of the most practical ways of catching an animal. Thank you.

SENATOR ZANE: Thank you, sir.

Is there a Roy Beal present? Mr. Beal is also a trapper, is that correct?

ROY BEAL: That's correct. Sir, I would like to thank you for this opportunity to speak. My name is Roy Beal. I am self-employed as a farmer. I own a 200-acre farm in Cumberland County.

I would like to state that I am opposed to any change in the trapping laws of this State. I have trapped for 25 years and I see no reason for changing the law now.

One-fourth of my annual income and two-thirds of my taxable income is from trapping, primarily muskrats. I use roughly 35 dozen leghold traps for harvesting muskrats. I fear that the banks will not be maintained if these traps are outlawed.

Fur farming, or harvesting of muskrats, is merely an extension of almost any productive farming along the Delaware River. This allows the farmer to make full use of his farmland, whether it be harvesting crops or furs, summer or winter.

By now I am sure you heard all the opposition about the population explosion and the diseases in animals that are left unchecked. So, now let's think about what will happen twenty years down the road.

If our banks are not maintained, I wonder what south Jersey will be like? There is a fresh water swamp less than five hundred yards from my farm that is used for irrigation. My neighbor tells me that if that bank goes out, this swamp will become part marsh. He knows. He saw it happen. How is my son expected to stay on the farm if we are not allowed to keep the raccoons and the Louisiana rice rat at a reasonable level?

The rice rat, as his name implies, will rob our grain fields. The raccoon will eat very nearly every and any vegetable or grain in the field. There is no known tool which will keep these animals in check, except for the leghold trap.

The fur industry has come under attack by a group of people who are playing on the emotions of our legislators. If we do not react intelligently, rather than emotionally, we are going to destroy an important part of our agriculture along the Coastal Bay area. Who is going to pay the bill in the end? The consumer.

I sincerely thank you for your attention. If there are any questions, I will be glad to try and answer them.

SENATOR ZANE: Senator Dumont?

SENATOR DUMONT: Mr. Beal, how often do you monitor your traps?

MR. BEAL: Daily. Sometimes I monitor them more often than that, but for muskrats daily is enough -- every twenty-four hours.

SENATOR DUMONT: Have you had training or courses in trapping?

MR. BEAL: No, sir. It is passed down from father to son.

SENATOR DUMONT: Suppose people start trapping today, do they get any courses or training in trapping of any kind?

MR. BEAL: My son does, by me. He is not old enough to go to the State regulatory school, but he goes out with me, and we enjoy our time together.

SENATOR DUMONT: There are courses that are available?

MR. BEAL: There are courses available. Before he will become a licensed trapper he will have to take a course.

SENATOR DUMONT: Everyone coming into trapping now has to be licensed?

MR. BEAL: Yes, sir. There is no license issued to anyone who is not qualified through the course. I am not sure how that goes, however, but there is a school for trapping now.

SENATOR DUMONT: I should know this, but I am not sure. Is it required by law that you have a trapping license?

MR. BEAL: On our farm we are not required by law to have a trapping license.

SENATOR DUMONT: That only applies to your own farm?

MR. BEAL: That is only for our own farm. If we leave the farm, or if it has a separate deed, we are required to have a license.

SENATOR DUMONT: Thank you.

MR. BEAL: Sir, I would like to point out there are nineteen subspecies of muskrats, of which the Delaware Basin has the most productive -- the highest reproduction rate. The Humane Society said that he could see in some cases where it is necessary to destroy some animals. We have the highest production, insofar as repopulation is concerned. A lot of these surveys are taken in states like Pennsylvania and other areas where the food and the sub-species are different, and this does not apply to our area. Thank you.

SENATOR DUMONT: Thank you.

SENATOR ZANE: Mr. William Kenny, the Assistant Secretary of Agriculture for the State of New Jersey.

WILLIAM KENNY: Senator Zane, Senator Dumont, my name is William Kenny. I am the Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, and I am

making this statement on behalf of the Secretary of Agriculture, Arthur Brown.

The Department of Agriculture feels obliged to express concern with A-3207. A blanket prohibition on the use or possession of the steel-jaw leghold trap might well expose farmers to significant economic harm. Until such time as there is made available an effective alternative for predator control, we suggest that 3207 be held in abeyance.

This Committee is aware that farm crops yield one pay day per year at harvest. That income follows extensive investments for land, labor, seed, fertilizer, pest and disease control measures. In those instances where wildlife ravages preempt the harvest for market, farm income is directly and irreparably affected. Farmers must be able to protect their crops from such intrusions.

Livestock farmers are also concerned with wildlife control. The opossum, skunk and raccoon are vulnerable to pseudorabies infection. This disease is of economic importance to swine and cattle producers. Until there is conclusive evidence that the disease is not transmitted to domestic stock by these predators, they must be held suspect and safeguards should be maintained.

However, there is no suspicion about rabies. The skunk, raccoon and fox have been identified as significant vectors in the transmission of rabies to all warm-blooded animals, including family pets and man. Rabies outbreaks have been tracked up the east coast; the organism entered Pennsylvania last year. Recently, the Center for Disease Control in Atlanta warned that the disease is expected to enter New Jersey this year.

Leptospirosis is of increasing concern to human and livestock health. This disease, which affects the kidneys and liver, is spread by the fox, raccoon, skunk and rodents.

Moreover, predatory animals often create land conditions which endanger farm workers and damage farm equipment. Woodchuck holes can upset tractors or dismount their operators, break the legs of man or beast, and play havoc with expensive harvesters and water management systems.

The Legislature recently passed a Right to Farm Act and it is presently considering trespass and vandalism measures. Those measures recognize the economic aspects of maintaining a strong farm base for the State.

Uncontrolled wildlife can inflict as much economic damage on our farms as the human trespasser or vandal. Although a properly managed wildlife population imposes some economic harm, the farm community is willing to accept that tolerable burden.

Again, until an equally effective control mechanism is available, A-3207 should be set aside.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

SENATOR ZANE: Senator Dumont?

SENATOR DUMONT: Do you foresee any equally effective control mechanism in the future?

MR. KENNY: No, sir, we don't, not at this time.

SENATOR DUMONT: I take it from your testimony that you would disagree with what Doctor Grandy of the Humane Society said, and that there is a possibility of conveying rabies to man by virtue of these animals, is that correct?

MR. KENNY: Yes, indeed. In fact, we have a report this year of rabies infections in bats in New Jersey. The bats have been associated with attacks on cats, and our veterinarians tell us that you may not get the evidence of disease right away because rabies takes a long time to germinate within the species.

SENATOR DUMONT: And, even though I imagine most farmers, or maybe all of them today, use tractors rather than horses -- although I can easily remember when they were using horses -- you still have the problem with the ground hog hole upsetting the tractors?

MR. KENNY: Well, I am not relating the ground hog to the trap; I am relating that to wildlife management. We feel that the leghold trap, to the best of our knowledge, is an important tool in wildlife management.

All wildlife must be managed effectively or it can become a real economic problem to farmers.

SENATOR DUMONT: But one ground-hog hole, for example, could upset a tractor, is that what you said?

MR. KENNY: Oh, yes.

SENATOR DUMONT: That means it could break a horse's leg?

MR. KENNY: Yes, sir.

SENATOR DUMONT: Thank you.

SENATOR ZANE: Thank you, Mr. Kenny.

MR. KENNY: Thank you, sir.

SENATOR ZANE: Is Charles Clausing present? Mr. Clausing is President of the Animal Welfare Association.

C H A R L E S C L A U S I N G: I am Charles Clausing. I am President of the Animal Welfare Association. I thank the Committee for the opportunity to speak here today. I have a resolution with me, which I will turn over to the Committee. It was passed by the Animal Welfare Association. It enunciates our support of A-3207. I would also like to make some additional remarks on the subject.

Let's get down to the basics of the steel-jaw leghold trap, and strip away superfluous factors. You know deep down that the trap is cruel and unselective. However, you are troubled because you think that banning it just might affect the livelihood of some people who use it.

I think you do these people an injustice. Most of them are innovative enough to seek out and use available alternates. The prohibition of the steel-jaw leghold trap in first and second class counties in New Jersey certainly hasn't stopped legal trapping there. A-3207 wouldn't stop legal trapping or seriously affect the number of animals captured in the rest of the State.

Life is full of examples of people adapting to changed conditions. When oil prices surged, people reacted with all manner of conservation measures and conversion to alternate energy sources. People are adaptable and all that A-3207 will do is to abolish a great deal of unnecessary animal suffering.

The Committee can, with clear conscience, release A-3207 for a vote by the full Senate. Just as there is a constituency seeking to preserve the status quo, there is a large and growing constituency of humanitarians looking for like-minded legislators. We urge you and your Committee to release the bill and to support it in the Senate.

I thank you for giving me this time to speak.

SENATOR DUMONT: Mr. Clausing, you realize that class one and two counties -- because counties are classified solely on the basis of population in New Jersey, and nothing else -- are so heavily populated that there really isn't a great deal of room for animals.

MR. CLAUSING: Well, I would cite Burlington County. I think there is a great deal of rural area in that county. That is where I happen to live.

SENATOR DUMONT: Burlington is the largest county in land area in the State also.

MR. CLAUSING: I am told they are also one of the highest producers of muskrat pelts. (dissension from audience)

SENATOR DUMONT: Suppose this bill passed and became law. Would you then attempt to outlaw all kinds of trapping?

MR. CLAUSING: Speaking for the Animal Welfare Association, very candidly, yes, we would prefer to see no trapping.

SENATOR DUMONT: Are you also opposed to hunting -- your organization?

MR. CLAUSING: On the same basis, we do not consider sports hunting as being proper.

SENATOR DUMONT: How about fishing?

MR. CLAUSING: I don't know that we have taken a position on fishing at this point.

SENATOR DUMONT: I recognize that fish may not be considered quite the same as animals, but at the same time, sports fishing is designed to terminate a fish's life, is it not?

MR. CLAUSING: I think it all comes down to the question of whether there is cruelty involved, whether it is done purely for the sake of sport, or whether there is some economic need for food or whatever.

SENATOR DUMONT: For example, wouldn't the hook that is ordinarily used hurt a fish?

MR. CLAUSING: I am sure it would.

SENATOR DUMONT: Thank you.

SENATOR ZANE: Is Carlton Sowers here? Mr. Sowers is a trapper.

C A R L T O N P. S O W E R S: I would like to thank the Senators for holding this hearing in Salem. It is a great advantage.

I live in the Township of Elsinboro. There are several miles of banks in the Township that protect the homes, farms, and roads from being flooded by the high tides from the Delaware River. It is an expensive and never-ending task to maintain these banks.

Keeping the muskrats from living in the banks and cutting holes through the bank is often the number one problem. The only satisfactory way we can catch these muskrats is with a leghold trap. These traps are set underwater and they do not harm other wildlife.

During the years 1983 and 1984, the cost of maintaining these banks has and will exceed \$350,000. This is the taxpayers' and landowners' money. Without the leghold trap, the problem will be worse than it is.

We have been told that the leghold trap has been banned in the state of Florida. It is also our understanding that the State of Florida will issue a permit to any farmer who requests it. They will allow him to use fifty leghold traps.

The day that Bill No. 3207 passed the Assembly, I asked Assemblyman Mazur, the sponsor of the bill, why a law was needed to ban the leghold trap in the entire State, when it was already against the law to use a leghold trap in the northern part of the State. Assemblyman Mazur told me that the reason the law needed to cover the entire State was that they could not enforce the law.

It seems to me that taking the livelihood away from the trappers and owners of marshland in south Jersey is a terrible price to pay because the powers that are in northern New Jersey cannot enforce their own laws.

I thank you.

SENATOR ZANE: Thank you very much. Senator, do you have any questions?

SENATOR DUMONT: No.

SENATOR ZANE: Thank you very much, Mr. Sowers.

Cathy Liss, Friends of Animals, Society for Animal Protection Legislation.

C A T H Y L I S S: My name is Cathy Liss, Research Associate with the Society for Animal Protective Legislation. I believe I was incorrectly listed on the list of tentative speakers. I am not a member of, nor a representative of, the Friends of Animals.

The Society is a national organization, founded in 1955, with the sole purpose of protecting animals through the passage of much needed legislation. During its existence, the Society has worked toward the passage of many State bills and has worked intensively to pass twelve Federal laws to protect animals.

I am a 1982 graduate of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. Three study concentrations during my time at Virginia Tech were Wildlife Management, Biology, and Animal Science. Throughout my course studies in Wildlife Management, professors and other staff, as well as graduate students in the Wildlife Department, agreed that there are a number of problems with the steel-jaw leghold trap. Specifically, this trap is nonselective, painful, and it causes serious injuries.

In fact, one of my Wildlife Management schoolbooks, "Wildlife and America", contains the following statement by Stanley A. Cain: "Although generally effective, they -- steel-jaw leghold traps -- have the disadvantage of being inhumane and indiscriminate in killing wildlife species."

Included in the statement are two photographs. The first is of a golden eagle caught in a steel trap and the second is of "a coyote, dead from the summer heat, after almost succeeding in freeing himself by chewing off his leg." I have the two photographs here if you are interested in seeing them.

Within both the School of Fisheries and Wildlife Management and the School of Biology, the steel-jaw leghold trap is not generally used for capture of animals when they are intended to be released. There is concern about injuries that would be sustained from the steel trap.

I have brought along a steel-jaw trap to demonstrate this archaic device's cruelty. This is a number two coil spring steel trap.

(witness tries, unsuccessfully, to demonstrate steel-jaw trap)

I don't usually set it with high-heels on, okay?

SENATOR ZANE: Is there a gentleman trapper present who would like to assist the lady?

(volunteer assists witness)

MS. LISS: Now that I have a volunteer, I would like to put his hand in the trap.

(volunteer puts hand into steel-jaw trap)

Hold it there for the entire length of the hearing, because an animal--

(audience applauds trapper volunteer)

TRAPPER VOLUNTEER: It does not cut or anything, but it does put a lot of pressure on the hand. That is what the trap does; it puts pressure on the hand, that's all.

SENATOR ZANE: I don't see any reason for you to sit with the trap on your hand, sir.

TRAPPER VOLUNTEER: It will, after a while, numb my fingers, but it does not cut the hand or anything like that.

MS. LISS: Can I finish my testimony?

SENATOR ZANE: Proceed.

MS. LISS: An animal caught in a leghold trap will be kept in that trap for up to twenty-four hours by law. I am only asking him to keep his hand in there for the length of the hearing. I believe there is pain which continues the longer the trap is on, whatever appendage it might be on. That is why I am asking you keep it on for the rest of the hearing.

SENATOR ZANE: Let's just have testimony and not be argumentative.

MS. LISS: This size in particular is recommended for use on fox, nutria, otter, badger, and raccoon, amongst other species. Steel traps come in both larger and smaller sizes. The trap has a very strong clamping mechanism which is activated when the animal species -- target or non-target -- triggers the pan of the trap.

Let me also emphasize that if an animal is caught in a trap he will not be sitting calmly, as this man is doing; he will be struggling to get out of that trap, which is going to inflict further pain on the animal.

Injuries result from the force of the jaws closing on the appendage, the tightness of the hold, the length of time the animal is held, and from the animal's struggles to free itself. Injuries include abrasions, cuts to the skin, damage to soft tissue, superficial nerves, arteries and tendons. The interference with circulation causes

gangrene. The captive animal may even chew off a foot to escape. This is termed wring-off by trappers. Broken bones and broken teeth as the animal fights the trap are common. Because the trap is not selective, non-target species, including pets, may be caught and injured or killed.

Though trappers who defend the steel-jaw trap may often be heard to claim that they can release non-target animals with no harm done, follow-up on released animals, when it has been done, tells a different story. For example, at the Raptor Rehabilitation Center, University of Minnesota, it has been found that, "signs of necrosis requires several days to develop. Of the raptors received for leg injuries involving only soft tissue damage...85% had irreparable damage that would result in loss of the foot." This is from the "International Journal for the Study of Animal Problems," November-December, 1981.

As for coyotes, a study at Northern Michigan University showed that two out of three coyotes, radio-tagged after being caught in steel-jaw leghold traps, were found dead of their injuries and starvation. In one case, the front foot had been chewed off after release. In another case, the foot was badly torn and chewed exposing broken bones. Yet, those coyotes had appeared to be able to be released.

Alternatives exist. Alternatives to the steel trap include box traps, cage traps, the Swedish legsnare, the Canadian legsnare and the Ezyonem. I have included detailed information on these alternatives in my testimony, and I have brought along these two traps to show you. This one is the Swedish legsnare and this one is the Ezyonem. These have to be demonstrated outside. This is a demonstrator model. I am sorry, I don't have the real thing available. You are welcome to try it. I must also say that I would not put my hand in one of those traps (indicating leghold trap); I would, and have, put my hand in these traps.

In British Columbia, in October, the use of the steel-jaw leghold trap was banned for use on raccoon, weasel, wolverine, squirrel, martin, and skunk on land. The British Columbian government

was satisfied that there were practical alternatives to the steel-jaw trap. And, I encourage you to contact the appropriate individuals within the British Canadian government to confirm this.

Ontario has now banned land sets with the steel trap for beaver, muskrat and mink, and Quebec has warned its trappers that during the 1983 season some restrictions will be imposed concerning use of the steel trap. It is interesting to note the recent appearance on the market of the Woodstream Canadian Legsnare. Also, a number of other alternatives are rapidly on their way. Two of these are the "Challenger" and the "Bionic."

A survey conducted by Yale University for the United States Fish and Wildlife Service in 1979, showed that 78% of the American public are opposed to the use of steel traps. Trappers contend that trapping is necessary to control rabies, but the National Research Council, acting on behalf of the National Academy of Sciences, completed a thorough research study of this question, and in 1983, submitted a report on the control of rabies which recommended: "Persistent trapping or poisoning campaigns as a means to rabies control should be abolished. There is no evidence that these costly and politically attractive programs reduce either wildlife reservoirs or rabies incidence. The money can be better spent on research, vaccination, compensation to stockmen for losses, education, or public warning systems." Because the bill does not stop trapping, there should be no loss of jobs or other economic hardships within the State.

"Facts and Furs" is included with my testimony for use by the Committee. It is a thorough comprehensive report on fur, from wild animal to fur coat. I have also included, "Reports from around the world belie American trappers; here is what really happens when nations ban leghold trapping," by Bill Clark.

Most importantly, the steel-jaw leghold trap is a cruel and painful nonselective device. Therefore, the Society for Animal Protective Legislation recommends prompt passage of A-3207, to ban the manufacture, sale, and use of the steel-jaw leghold trap in the State of New Jersey. Thank you, Senator Zane.

SENATOR ZANE: Do you have any questions, Senator Dumont?

SENATOR DUMONT: Does your organization differ from some of the other organizations that testified, insofar as you would not attempt to ban all trapping?

MS. LISS: We are not opposed to all trapping.

SENATOR DUMONT: Are you opposed to just the leghold trap, or are you opposed to other traps?

MS. LISS: Just the leghold trap.

SENATOR DUMONT: Just the leghold?

MS. LISS: Correct.

SENATOR DUMONT: What is the position of your organization on hunting?

MS. LISS: I don't quite understand why you are asking about hunting and fishing when our main concern here today should be trapping. But, no, we are not opposed to hunting or fishing. We would hope that they are done in the most humane manner possible.

SENATOR DUMONT: You are not?

MS. LISS: Correct.

SENATOR DUMONT: Thank you.

SENATOR ZANE: Tom Zander, please?

T H O M A S A. Z A N D E R: My name is Tom Zander. I represent the firm of T. Zander & Sons, Inc. I have been a fur merchant or collector for twenty-five years. Our company name is T. Zander & Sons, Inc. We buy furs coast to coast. We employ sixteen employees. In the past four years we have shipped over 500,000 pounds of freight from the Port of Philadelphia.

Looking at the financial aspect of the fur industry in New Jersey, it is no "Mom and Pop" industry. New Jersey ranks well into the top five fur-producing states in the United States. T. Zander & Sons is only one of many fur collectors in New Jersey. Our company alone has shown sales in the past four years in excess of \$16 million, with growing sales each year. We do ninety-eight percent of our business overseas, with fifteen different countries.

I feel I am an expert on fur and I cannot tell if a fox or raccoon was caught in a leghold trap after it has been skinned. How can the average law enforcement officer know the difference in order to enforce Bill No. 3207?

I sell approximately \$40,000 worth of traps and supplies during a collecting season. Look at the price tag on the traps in the possession of trappers. How can the State walk in and take away the tools of a man's bread and butter without reimbursement?

I have been trapping for thirty-six years, and run about eighteen dozen traps. I have only caught two cats and two dogs, and all four animals were released unharmed. Please note that all four animals were running at large on private property. Thank you.

SENATOR ZANE: Thank you, sir.

SENATOR DUMONT: Where is your fur company located, please?

MR. ZANDER: In West Deptford Township, Gloucester County.

SENATOR DUMONT: Thank you.

SENATOR ZANE: Harry Coleman, Mayor of Lower Alloways Creek.

H A R R Y C O L E M A N: I have with me a resolution passed by the Township Committee of Lower Alloways Creek. It was passed unanimously, and it reads:

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of Lower Alloways Creek in the County of Salem, State of New Jersey, that the Committee hereby opposes A-3207 which has been introduced in the Legislature, adopted by the Assembly, and would outlaw the use of leghold-type animal traps. The leghold traps are the only way to catch muskrats in pond meadows. There are many pond meadows in Lower Alloways Creek Township, and many residents in this Township and in the County of Salem and elsewhere in New Jersey rely upon trapping the furbearing animals for their livelihood. Use of the leghold trap ensures an income and support for many families in our Township. It is important to use this type of trap for the control of predators, such as foxes, skunks, raccoons, weasles, and house rats.

If the leghold trap is prohibited, there will be no efficient way of controlling the muskrat populations in this Township, and without that control there will be what is known as "eatouts." An "eatout" leaves the marshland void of vegetation, and it becomes barren of wild animals and birds. It is an ecological disaster. Too large a population of muskrats also causes holes to be cut through banks of the pond meadows and roadways, making breaches. Muskrats will even go to

higher ground, digging holes in pastures and farm fields. Everyone knows what a hole in a pasture field means for horses.

The Township Committee of Lower Alloways Creek feels a great burden would be placed upon those holders of leghold traps, in that a large investment is made in the purchasing of the traps and the current proposal institutes a penalty if in possession of a trap. Accordingly, the self-employed trapper would stand to lose a considerable investment, plus having a penalty imposed upon him if he does not dispose of each and every leghold trap.

The proper use of leghold traps in pond meadows is not "inhumane". The set is made so that the muskrat dives off the set into the water, wrapping the chain around the bottom of the stake, and the muskrat quickly drowns. Very few pets are ever caught in traps. The trapper does not like to spoil a set with an animal that is of no value to him. They put too much work and time into their sets. People that have pets they care for do not allow them to run at large in trapping areas, just as they would not allow them to run at large on city streets. This Township has an ordinance prohibiting owners from letting their dogs run at large.

Furbearing animals are a renewable resource, and the proper control of them not only provides food and clothing for many people of the world, but also preserves the ecology of the marshland. The leghold trap is essential to this preservation in areas where there are pond meadows. The income to the marshland owners permits them to pay taxes, maintain meadow banks, and generally preserve these marshes for the benefit of all those who appreciate marshlands. The leghold trap is important to conservation of marshlands. The Township Committee of Lower Alloways Creek urges the defeat of A-3207.

This was adopted unanimously by the Township Committee of Lower Alloways Creek.

SENATOR ZANE: Thank you very much.

Owen Poole, New Jersey Farm Bureau.

O W E N P O O L E: Senator Zane, Senator Dumont, trappers of south Jersey, I am Owen Poole, Treasurer of the New Jersey Farm Bureau. We are a voluntary membership organization that represents over 4,000 farmers in the State of New Jersey.

We feel that the passage of this legislation will cause a great economic hardship to agriculture in all of New Jersey.

As has been pointed out here today, there are problems with health -- such as rabies and mange -- when you have an over-population of animals, which can affect domestic livestock, be it dairy cow, beef cow, hogs, sheep, swine, or cats and dogs.

Some of the other problems associated with an uncontrolled population of animals would be the danger created by the burrows in the fields, as has been pointed out by a previous speaker. Maybe none of you have ever experienced the tipping over of a wagon or tractor because of a cave-in in the middle of a field, but it is not a pleasant experience. There have been lives lost because of this.

Muskrats destroy and deteriorate irrigation pond banks and stream banks, and many crops are destroyed by muskrats, coons, and beaver. A muskrat can cause a vegetable farmer, in a matter of a day or two, a good bit of grief, because they eat the tender shoots of the plants after the farmer has planted them.

I don't know whether any of you have gone into a field of sweet corn that is ready to be picked -- in about two days -- and found that a pack of coons has been in there the night before. It is not the fact that we don't want to feed them. If they would take one ear of corn and eat it, it would be all right. But, when you get ten or fifteen coons in a corn field, it seems as though they think it is a game to see how many plants they can pull down, strip the husks off, take one bite out of the ear of corn, and then move on and do the same thing over and over again. It is not uncommon for a coon, or a pack of coons, to go into a sweet corn field and destroy a half acre in an evening. This is a large economic loss to a farmer.

We have a problem with livestock, as has been pointed out here, stepping in the holes caused by muskrats, fox, or woodchuck.

We feel that the passage of this bill, with no suitable alternative to control the balance of nature, would be a grave mistake.

There are thousands, or hundreds of thousands, of muskrats taken here in the south Jersey area each year. If these were not taken, I would hate to see what the city streets of Salem and some of our other communities would be like, because an animal is going to go

where there is food. They don't particularly care whether they live in a house, whether they live in cellar, or whether they live in the ground.

A muskrat is very adaptable to his environment, and he will move where he has to. It is not uncommon for them to plug up field drains by building a nest in them, and ruining a piece of land that has been draining through field tiles.

There are many, many reasons for the continued use of the leghold trap. I think this gentleman here, by snapping the trap with his hand, has shown us that there is not that much pain inflicted by the trap.

I have been a trapper and I have caught animals in traps. I have caught muskrats, and I have caught dogs. I have released the dogs and the dogs, within a day's time, were walking normally, with no problems.

Until there is a suitable alternative, I feel this bill should be held in Committee. Thank you.

SENATOR ZANE: I am going to change the order of the speakers list by taking a gentleman from Silver Grove, Kentucky, who has to get a 4:50 flight out of Philadelphia. His name is Chet Hayes. He is the President of the Fur Takers of America.

C H E T H A Y E S: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the privilege of testifying before this Committee today. My name is Chet Hayes, and I am President of the Fur Takers of America. I am a resident of Silver Grove, Kentucky, and I am a little bit hesitant about coming up here and sticking my nose into a New Jersey issue. However, I was invited by our Fur Takers chapters in New Jersey. Our organization has approximately ninety-five chapters and affiliates throughout the country. We have members in every state of the Union, plus several members in foreign countries.

We are dedicated to teaching our American youth the ethical and responsible ways to pursue the sport of trapping. We are interested in educating the public as to the benefits of trapping and the American fur trade, which, as you well know, is a billion dollar industry that enjoys a favorable balance of trade. We're interested in developing better fur markets for American trappers.

We are very interested in cooperating with State and Federal fish and game agencies towards better game laws to conserve our furbearing species and their habitats.

First, most, and always, we are very much involved in defeating any legislation which we feel would adversely affect present and future generations of the American trapper.

We are a nonprofit organization that works with legitimate -- and I stress the word "legitimate" -- conservation organizations to achieve these goals. For this reason, I am here today to speak very proudly in opposition to Assembly Bill 3207.

My twenty-two years of trapping experience as a sport, a hobby, and finally as a professional fur trapper have provided me with a very good knowledge of trapping and what it is about -- the pros and cons, the facts and fallacies. I have trapped in a variety of climates and conditions throughout this country. I have trapped in the deserts of the southwest; I've trapped on the plains; I've trapped in southern swamps; and, I've also trapped in a good number of heavily populated areas around this country, which are very similar to your situation here in New Jersey.

My experience with the leghold trap, Mr. Chairman, does not bear any resemblance to the conditions of trapping as expressed by some of the preservationist organizations here today in support of this bill. My experience in trapping does not include deliberate cruelty, the desire to inflict misery or suffering on any form of life. My experience in trapping does not include mutilation. If trapping were a pursuit based on this sort of thing, you can rest assured that I wouldn't have put twenty-two years of my life into it.

I've asked myself why this difference exists -- the difference in what I've seen in trapping and the so-called trapping experiences depicted by some of these groups. I see two basic reasons, Mr. Chairman.

First of all, I see people of genuine, decent and good intent, and they have no real knowledge of wildlife, wildlife management or nature. A lot of hunters and professional wildlife managers and sportsmen refer to them as "bleeding hearts" or "armchair ecologists," if you will. This is one group of people that I see involved in this movement.

Secondly, I see people of questionable intent who would use deception in the hopes of legislating their morals on the rest of us -- legislating their lifestyle, their value on the rest of us. I don't think this country is ready for that. I feel the supporters of Assembly Bill 3207 include both of these groups.

Some testimony that we have heard today is, in my opinion, not true, and it should be straightened out. Knowing time is short here today, I will try to be as brief as I can, but I would like to touch on a couple of matters that I feel are very important.

We have heard the statement that leghold traps are a threat to pets and should be banned in the interest of public safety. In reality, pets are accidentally caught on very, very rare occasions, and under twenty-four hour check laws and under today's trapping techniques and devices -- swiveling and staking methods, trapper ethics -- these ugly, incidental catches are kept to a minimum. Also, I would have to point out that in the vast majority of accidental captures that I've seen of any pet -- dog, cat or whatever -- these animals can almost always be released unharmed. It should also be remembered that many of these stray pet captures are not the fault of the trapper who must get permission to trap on private property here in New Jersey, but instead, they are the result of negligent pet owners who allow their pets to stray on private land where they are generally not wanted in the first place.

AUDIENCE: (Applause)

MR. HAYES: The statement was also made that the public is crying for an end to leghold traps, trapping, and the American fur trade. We are constantly bombarded with these so-called surveys that were taken from Yale University, or another university, where it says that 60% or 68% of the American public is opposed to trapping. Well, I have got some very, very solid documented evidence from the State of Ohio in 1977 and from the State of Oregon in 1980, where the public was allowed by state referendum to vote on how they felt about leghold traps. This wasn't just to comment about a one-sided poll or a survey, but to vote after being presented both sides of the issue. In each case, there was a very strong two-to-one margin by the voters in those states in support of trapping.

Also, we have a booming fur industry in this country, and that is solid support of the product that we produce. If people didn't like what we do and what we produce, they wouldn't buy it. It is just that simple.

It has also been suggested here today that our nation should follow the lead of a very, very long list of nations which have banned the leghold trap. If we assume that this list is valid and researched and genuinely representative of those countries listed -- and I don't assume this -- we would have to look at these countries. Many of them are third-world countries, and if you look at this, I think careful scrutiny will reveal that in every case, these countries either import the furs that we export, or we feed those people with our tax dollars, which are generated from some of our fur money. So, I don't see why the United States ought to follow this lead. I sure don't.

I also feel that the trapping question is really not a question of cruelty or emotion or anything else. I feel it is a simple question of wildlife management. All of these aforementioned countries are light years behind us in wildlife management. They do not manage their wildlife the way we do, and that is why we feed so many of their starving citizens in India. Animals there have almost complete rights, and people starve to death while cows walk around the streets and eat grain. I don't see any reason for the United States to adopt this philosophy. I feel that the philosophy of wildlife management that we have today is a system which allows the use of wildlife by those who buy a hunting, fishing, or trapping license. That license money goes toward protecting game, and the species and their habitat. It is a system that works, and I think that this leghold trap issue is just the tip of the iceberg, as stated before.

Should trapping go down? Should trapping fall? I feel like the next thing, as was very plainly stated by some of these groups -- and some of them dodge the question-- The real intent of these groups is to ban all trapping, hunting, fishing, and consumptive use of wildlife. Should this ever happen, God save us. I hope it doesn't. But should this ever happen, we need to ask ourselves, "Where is the funding going to come from to preserve wildlife and to help wildlife and its habitat? Who is going to pay for conservation officers, game

wardens, and biologists to carry on this program that we are so successful with?" The carpet is going to be pulled right out from under us because the funding will be taken away. If you can hunt, trap, or fish, you have to buy a license to do so. Where is this money going to come from to conduct this program? That is one question that I have.

In closing, Mr. Chairman, there is also one other very good reason, in my opinion, not to consider passage of this bill before us here today. To me, and to the New Jersey trappers and trappers all around the United States who I represent, this bill represents an infringement of our freedom of choice -- our personal freedom. We choose to be trappers and we choose to live off the land. This is our lifestyle of choice. America is a traditional country where traditionally, people can choose to live the way they want.

I choose to trap, and others within this room choose to carry signs to advocate animal rights. While I feel that everyone should have the opportunity in this country to enjoy and express themselves, I also feel that there is a restriction here where we must enjoy and express ourselves at the expense of others. I feel that this is a cultural battle, and I think that we should all remember that 200 years ago, New Jersey and twelve other colonies of His Majesty drove His Majesty's army off of this continent for that very reason. They were tired of having His Majesty's values imposed on each and every one of us. They were tired of the King's deer, the King's land, etc. They wanted a country where people were free to choose, and the freedoms that they fought for would include the freedom to hunt, fish and trap, as well as to advocate animal rights. I feel that legislation of this sort is a misuse of the legislative process by a very narrow special-interest group.

I certainly hope that this Committee will look at Assembly Bill 3207 in the same light. Thank you very much.

AUDIENCE: (Applause)

SENATOR ZANE: Thank you. Cathy Costello from Noah's Ark? (not present) Cynthia Branigan, Fund for Animals? (not present) Robert Markmann, Society for the Protection of Animals?

R O B E R T M A R K M A N N: I'm Robert Markman, and I am here to represent the Society for the Protection and Preservation of Animals. The group was founded at the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and the State University in 1980. Its purpose is to educate the public on animal problems and to eliminate animal suffering wherever possible.

I have been a resident of Middlesex County for the past twenty-three years. I have a Bachelor of Science degree in Animal Science and a minor in biology from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. I have taken a number of courses in wildlife management, including wildlife diseases, pest control management, wildlife biology and management, and ecology. I also consider myself to be an avid backpacker and wildlife photographer.

Trapping furbearers has become an increasingly controversial issue in recent years. Ten states and over sixty countries have already placed restrictions or have outlawed the leghold trap, and many efforts are underway to extend this prohibition throughout the United States. In New Jersey, there has been a thirteen-year battle to ban this antiquated device. In many respects, the leghold trap controversy is related to a growing public awareness of the many wildlife management practices.

A significant majority of the American public has expressed serious problems with the use of the leghold trap. Specifically, 78% of the public disagreed with the statement, "I see nothing wrong with the use of the leghold trap to capture wild animals."

There are two major weaknesses with the leghold trap: the potential to mutilate animals; and, the trap is non-selective. In Ontario, where extensive studies have been conducted on the leghold trap, problems have occurred when it was used for trapping foxes, coyotes, wolves, raccoons, and feral dogs.

Two factors in the design of the leghold trap are responsible for the amount of injuries that occur. First, the jaws of the trap must close quickly. Second, the trap's grip must be sufficient to guarantee that the trapped animal will not pry its foot loose.

Field studies conducted by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service between 1977 and 1980 on captured coyotes revealed that the animals are normally trapped by one foot and the jaws of the trap

usually close across the paw. The paw frequently becomes swollen as a result of impaired circulation. Cuts commonly occur across the top of the paw and are inflicted as a result of struggles to escape. The severity of cuts will vary as to number, length, width, and depth. Assignment of such into categories based as slight, moderate or severe is, therefore, difficult. The damage many range from a single, very small abrasion or a cut 1mm or 2mm in length that does not extend through the skin, to a single large, deep cut up to 3mm extending across the entire upper surface of the paw, exposing underlying tendons and bones, to several smaller linear cuts across the width of the paw. The results of twenty-one captured coyotes, with an average time left in the trap of twenty-four hours, are as follows:

Three had no damage or slight cuts.

Sixteen had moderate or severe cuts.

Two had broken bones.

The study had an "acceptable" damage level of 14.3%. Similar findings have been recorded using other furbearers.

I would also like to recall an incident that appeared in the Journal of the American Medical Association on March 6, 1978. Dr. John Beary treated a four-year-old girl after her right hand was caught in a leghold trap that had been set in the woods behind her house. The incident resulted in crushed fractures and tendon disruption involving three fingers, and it required reconstructive surgery.

All the evidence is conclusive that the leghold trap causes mutilations upon its victims.

The non-selective nature is also receiving much criticism. Since the trap does not discriminate among animals that come in contact with the paws, any animal is capable of being caught and suffering from the same injuries previously mentioned. The trapper's call these unwanted animals "trash." Some of the "trash" animals include domestic pets and livestock, birds, deer, porcupines, squirrels, owls, rare and endangered species, or a furbearer for which the trapper has no market.

A Canadian study on the non-selective nature of the leghold traps "showed that on two professionally tended traplines, using only leghold traps, 1350 unwanted birds and mammals were caught, while 561 desired furbearers were taken." Another study in Great Britain showed a ratio between unwanted and target species of almost three to one.

Another major problem that exists with the leghold trap in New Jersey is the fact that the present trapping laws are virtually unenforceable. As long as traps can be legally bought and sold, including the eleven counties that have banned the leghold trap, the violations within the State will continue.

Recalling an article that appeared in the Sunday Star Ledger on December 16, 1982 entitled "Illegal Trapping Maims More Animals in Jersey," Captain Hudson Amory of the State Division of Fish, Game, and Shellfisheries law enforcement section reported his department had not found any appreciable increase in illegal trapping. He also acknowledged "the division does not have enough agents to enforce the trapping laws." He went on to say, "Although trappers must be licensed, unfortunately anyone can legally purchase a trap."

On March 24, 1983, I testified before the Assembly Commerce and Industry Committee and reported three violations in which animals were caught in leghold traps in Union County. This information was obtained by the Union County SPCA, and I would like to recall these three incidents again today.

On February 3, 1983 at 8:30 A.M., SPCA officer, Joy Krusak, picked up an opossum which was caught in a Victor No. one and one-half coil spring leghold. The trap was set in the Cranford County Park on Mohawk Drive. This park is frequented by a number of children and people who walk their pets daily. The Fish and Game Department took the opossum.

On February 10, 1983, SPCA officer, Joy Krusak picked up a raccoon caught in a No. 2 double-coil spring leghold off Exit 134.7 of the Garden State Parkway, the Westfield/Clark/Cranford exit. The raccoon was reported to be in the trap three days. Gangrene had already set in on the right arm.

On March 3, 1983 at 10:00 A.M., SPCA officers, Linda Costas and John Weidele, picked up a black and tan male sheppard (medium sized). It was caught in a No. one and one-half long-spring leghold at the Springfield Nursery in Springfield. The dog lost its right front paw in the trap, and was taken to the Clark Animal Hospital for treatment.

Senate Bill 3207 will prevent animals within this State from being caught within the jaws of the leghold trap because it specifically bans the possession, sale or use of the leghold trap. I strongly urge anyone with a reverence for other life to fully support S-3207 and ban this antiquated device -- the steel-jaw leghold trap.

Thank you.

SENATOR ZANE: Was the one example you gave in Union County at a municipal park?

MR. MARKMANN: Yes, Clark Park.

SENATOR ZANE: Do you have any idea why the trap was set there?

MR. MARKMANN: It was an illegal trap.

SENATOR ZANE: Do you have any idea why it was set there though?

MR. MARKMANN: No, I don't. There was no nametag on it, as is required, plus it is also banned in eleven counties. That is why it is important to have this banned statewide. Then it will be banned in all stores, and it will prevent anybody from purchasing them.

SENATOR ZANE: Is it banned in Union County?

MR. MARKMANN: Yes, it is.

SENATOR ZANE: So, therefore, someone was really acting illegally, weren't they?

MR. MARKMANN: Yes.

SENATOR ZANE: So, it is not necessarily the trap. It is the illegal conduct of somebody, isn't it?

MR. MARKMANN: That is because these traps are still available in stores where they have already been banned.

SENATOR ZANE: That is not the question. Somebody acted illegally, did they not?

MR. MARKMANN: Yes, they did.

SENATOR ZANE: In the other two areas that you cited, is trapping legal or illegal?

MR. MARKMANN: Both of them are in Union County where it is supposed to be illegal.

SENATOR ZANE: Someone acted illegally, am I correct?

MR. MARKMANN: But, they wouldn't have been able to act illegally if these traps could not be purchased in stores in New Jersey.

SENATOR ZANE: Okay. Do you have any questions, Senator Dumont?

SENATOR DUMONT: Mr. Markmann, I gather from your testimony that traps can be bought in the counties where they are banned.

MR. MARKMANN: Yes, that is true.

SENATOR DUMONT: As I read the names of the sponsors of this legislation, aren't they virtually all from the eleven counties in which traps are now banned?

MR. MARKMANN: Yes, they are.

SENATOR DUMONT: This is an attempt, therefore, on the part of those representatives of the counties where they are banned to ban them all over the State.

MR. MARKMANN: It makes sense to ban them that way. If you can legally purchase traps in counties where they have already been banned--

SENATOR DUMONT: Didn't you attempt in the beginning -- before 1973 -- to ban them in the entire State?

MR. MARKMANN: Yes, that is true.

SENATOR DUMONT: So, you started by taking eleven counties as a compromise at that time. Is that correct? Class one and two counties-- Now, Middlesex, where you say you live, is probably at this point, based on the 1980 census, the third largest county in the State in population. It is right behind Essex County and Bergen County. Is that correct? Hudson has degenerated. It has degenerated; I shouldn't put it that way. But, it has gone down from a first-class to a second-class county, and they needed legislation to retain some aspects of first-class status.

If you don't enforce the law in the eleven counties where the leghold traps are now banned, how do you expect that it can be enforced in the twenty-one counties -- the other ten included?

MR. MARKMANN: I think to have notification in those stores that says that the trap is banned in the whole State will make it harder for someone to obtain the trap.

SENATOR DUMONT: Well, did the original legislation ban the sale of traps in the eleven counties?

MR. MARKMANN: No, they can still be brought into those counties.

SENATOR DUMONT: That isn't what I asked. Did it ban the sale of traps in stores in those eleven counties?

MR. MARKMANN: I'm not aware of that. I don't think it did.

SENATOR DUMONT: You don't think it did. Well, they are still being bought in those eleven counties where they are supposed to be banned. Thank you.

SENATOR ZANE: Mr. Markmann, what is your position on hunting?

MR. MARKMANN: I'm against all sport hunting.

SENATOR ZANE: You're against all sport hunting. What other kind of hunting is there?

MR. MARKMANN: Well, I think a person with a low income who needs a suitable amount of meat in the winter might have to do some subsistent hunting in order to survive.

SENATOR ZANE: So, you're suggesting that that is a poacher, correct?

MR. MARKMANN: That wouldn't be a poacher, because you would hunt during the regular season and freeze the meat.

SENATOR ZANE: Well, what if he is hungry when it is not the regular season? Would you support his hunting?

MR. MARKMANN: Illegally? No.

SENATOR ZANE: So, he should starve then, correct? It is the same individual -- just a different time of the year.

MR. MARKMANN: I don't know of any individual who would do that illegally.

SENATOR ZANE: I'm sorry?

MR. MARKMANN: I don't know of any individual who would wantonly hunt out of season with the risk of being caught.

SENATOR ZANE: So basically, your position is that if it comes down to eating, you then would recognize the need of a human being to go after meat. Other than that, you're opposed to hunting and you're opposed to trapping.

MR. MARKMANN: All sport hunting, yes, that is true. I'm not opposed to all trapping -- only the most cruel devices-- For instance, the conibear which is set on land, or the leghold trap, as I stated today--

SENATOR ZANE: Why are you in opposition to trapping of any sort or hunting of any sort, other than for someone who is hungry?

MR. MARKMANN: I would rather just stick with the present trapping law.

SENATOR ZANE: Will you answer the question, or don't you want to answer it? It is up to you.

MR. MARKMANN: I just said that I am opposed to all sport hunting. Morally I believe it is wrong to hunt anything for fun or recreation.

SENATOR ZANE: Okay, are there any other questions?

SENATOR DUMONT: Suppose somebody of modest means was hungry and he does some trapping. Would you then be for the trapping?

MR. MARKMANN: Yes, if he did not use a conibear on land or a leghold trap.

SENATOR DUMONT: Thank you.

AUDIENCE: (Applause)

SENATOR ZANE: Mr. William Hobokan?

W I L L I A M H O B O K A N: Senator Zane and Senator Dumont, my name is William Hobokan. I represent the New Jersey State Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs. We have 50,000 members in the State of New Jersey, and I wish to thank you for this chance to have input in your hearing on Assembly Bill 3207.

Before I give you some statistics on trapping in New Jersey, I would like to point out that this bill is the first step by the Humane Society of the United States to prohibit trapping, hunting, and eventually fishing. We can substantiate that by their quotes. Roger Caras, a member of the Humane Society, said in reference to trapping, "I say the fur industry must die, every shred of it, and jobs be damned."

Further evidence that the HSUS and the Friends of Animals eventually want to eliminate all hunting, trapping, and fishing is their continued protest on the opening day of hunting season at the

Great Swamp and their recent suit filed to prohibit hunting for black ducks.

The Humane Society of the United States has also indicated that their ultimate goal is "to produce a generation of adults who would no longer wish to kill any living creature." I take this to include mosquitos, rats, and poisonous snakes. I would also like to point out that this means beef, pork, lamb, and poultry would disappear from your dinner tables. To further the position, the HSUS has gone so far as to pass out flyers in some schools, indicating that the children should tell their fathers not to fish because "worms and fish have rights, the same as people."

On the issue of trapping in New Jersey, I would like to point out that the raw pelts are valued at approximately four million dollars. This is based on a survey made of the 1980-1981 fur harvest. The value of the finished products has been estimated at twenty million dollars. You will hear trappers today point out that they supplement their income by trapping. You have heard a representative of the union point out the number of jobs resulting from trapping. These jobs include people who process the pelts, dye the pelts, and convert the pelts into finished products. The retail marketing of finished products also employs many people. Approximately 50% of all persons who buy hunting, trapping, and fishing licenses are union members.

The 1980-1981 survey indicated that 31% of all trappers have less than \$5,000 income from other sources. 47.7% of all trappers have income less than \$10,000 from other sources. For these two groups, trapping is a vital supplement to their income.

19.4% of all trappers are students working their way through college or high school, and 36.4% of all trappers are blue-collar workers. Trapping has taken place in America since the time of the first settlers and should not be banned now.

You have also heard from wildlife biologists who have discussed the disease problems resulting from overpopulation of furbearing animals.

The farmers have explained the problems they will have if trapping is banned, and the Division of Fish and Game has discussed the problems relating to wildlife management.

Again, I would like to thank you for extending this time to me, and I would like to point out that this bill is the first step in a long-running plan laid out by the HSUS and the Friends of Animals to eliminate trapping, hunting, and eventually fishing.

The New Jersey State Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs opposes A-3207 and hope that after have heard all of the testimony, you will also oppose this bill.

There is just one other thing I have to reiterate. We keep hearing that 78% of the people in the United States are opposed to trapping. As you just heard a minute ago, the facts are that in 1977 in Ohio and in 1980 in Oregon on a referendum, the move to ban to trapping lost by two to one.

Mr. Chairman, I'll answer any quetions that you might have. This is the particular flyer that was sent home with the children, indicating that HSUS would represent the worms and fish in court, if necessary.

SENATOR ZANE: Would you agree to give us a copy, if you have an extra copy, of that flyer so that we can make it part of the record?

MR. HOBOKAN: Absolutely.

SENATOR ZANE: I will ask the recording secretaries to include that as an exhibit within the record, please. Do you have any questions, Senator Dumont?

SENATOR DUMONT: I'm happy to see Mr. Hobokan here because he happens to be one of my constituents.

MR. HOBOKAN: I drove almost as far as you did, Wayne.

SENATOR ZANE: Thank you very much.

AUDIENCE: (Applause)

SENATOR ZANE: Robert Traae, Township Committeeman, from Lower Alloways Creek?

R O B E R T T R A A E: Senator Zane and Senator Dumont, I appreciate you coming down here to hold this hearing. A lot of things I was going to say have already been said and documented.

As a member of the Township Committee, I have taken time to go to some of the trapper's meetings. I do know of occasions where a lot of people in our community rely strongly upon the monies that they

receive from trapping. There are cases on record where some of them don't even wait for the end of the year to collect the money from their harvests. They trade them right over the counter for food.

I'm strongly opposed to Assembly Bill 3207 because I feel that it infringes on the right to live, which we all have. It is confiscatory. The part about the doctor referring to his theory-- These same people think we come from monkeys.

For anyone who reads the Bible, the Lord has given us the right and domain over the animals. Glory to these meetings, especially the part where someone who desires a license has to take special training. I disagree with the non-selectiveness of these traps because they don't waste their time putting them in places where they are trying to harvest. These traps are the result of illegal trapping -- people who don't know what they are doing.

Since I am a member of the Committee, I know for a fact that there are hundreds of thousands of dollars spent in Salem County to maintain the banks. I have six acres of meadowland right behind my house. I have animals -- dogs and cats -- and in the fifteen years I've lived there, I have never suffered the loss of an animal. However, I live on a little rural country road and the only cars that travel along there are supposed to be my neighbors' cars, but I have got dogs that I can show you right now -- one with only three legs -- one with plates in his legs. In counting the number I have lost, I don't hear anybody making a protest to the Division of Motor Vehicles to come down with some violations in treating animals that way.

I think that this bill should be defeated. It is a bad bill. The people who are involved in pushing for it have no concern for what is going on down here in South Jersey. It is a way of life, and I think that these men should be able to continue.

Thank you.

AUDIENCE: (Applause)

SENATOR ZANE: Arthur Jarman, former member of the State Board of Agriculture, and presently with the New Jersey State Grange?

ARTHUR JARMAN: I want to thank you, Senator Zane and Senator Dumont, for the privilege of testifying this afternoon. My name is Arthur Jarman, and I represent the New Jersey State Grange.

That is an organization of farm folk and non-farm folk. I'll not go into a lot of statistics. You have heard a lot of different reasons--

I just want, for the record, to indicate that the New Jersey State Grange is very much opposed to any ban on any form of trapping in the State of New Jersey. As I say, I am not going to go into any of the statistics. They have very well been pointed out -- the economic impact, etc.

Again, I want to thank the Committee for coming to Salem County to have this hearing. The State Grange just wants it on record that they are opposed to any form of any ban on trapping in the State of New Jersey.

Thank you.

AUDIENCE: (Applause)

SENATOR ZANE: Thank you. Janis Barry, Salem County SPCA? It is getting late in the day, and Senator Dumont has an engagement back in North Jersey, so he is going to have to leave shortly -- in Sussex County, as a matter of fact. You know where that is -- way up. If you could, will you limit your remarks as much as you can? Thank you very much.

JANIS BARRY: Senator Zane and Senator Dumont, the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals in Salem County and the Salem County Humane Society oppose the use of the steel-jaw leghold trap and support A-3207, which bans this barbaric device.

United States Fish and Wildlife surveys conducted by Yale University scientists found that 78% of the American public wants to see the steel-jaw leghold trap banned. It is already abolished in sixty countries. Are we any less civilized?

Alternative methods are available. In fact, 90% of the muskrat trappers use the conibear trap, considered to give a faster death.

Some trappers using the leghold trap confess that for every target animal trapped, two other "trash" animals are caught, including dogs and cats. Every year, the animal welfare agents find animals that have been maimed or killed in leghold traps. A large dog in Elsinboro Township was seen every few days dragging a trap, but he was so frightened that he would not permit anyone near him. The Carneys Point

dog warden tried for weeks to rescue a dog in a trap, and he could not. A husky was found screaming with a trap on its paw in Oldmans Township. These animals experience pain as much as we do, according to Dr. Lawrence Soma, Professor Veterinary Medicine, University of Pennsylvania, and when we observe an animal caught in a trap, we realize this is all too true.

To protest the unfairness to those of us who support the bill, some Salem County residents and others felt they should boycott this hearing, and they are meeting in Trenton at the same time where a press conference is being held. However, Senator Zane, Chairman of the Natural Resources and Agriculture Committee has promised to kill this bill -- which has already passed the Assembly in a 46-27 vote -- by not releasing it from his Committee for a vote in the Senate. Apparently he is admitting that the bill will pass if it is presented on the Senate floor.

Senator Zane seems to feel that trappers in our district are his only constituents, whereas trappers in our entire State amount to only .06 of one per cent of the total population and half of these are from the northern counties.

What has happened to the rest of us whom Zane also represents? We are being ignored by this legislator who refuses to acknowledge our phone calls and letters. When we elected this man, we believed he would represent us in a democratic fashion. Supporters of A-3207 are told not to contact Senator Zane's office because of his determination to kill this bill.

This bill has one purpose -- banning this cruel outdated steel-jaw leghold trap. Many of us would like to see New Jersey move forward in establishing humane legislation. It is time for our elected officials to observe the humanistic views of their constituents, and therefore, we urge the passing of A-3207.

I thought it was very interesting when the good doctor from Georgia was talking about rabies in Maryland, Virginia, Delaware, and Pennsylvania. These are all states that allow trapping, and apparently the trapping is not controlling the rabies in these states. We know that rabies is a cycle epidemic, and it will be in New Jersey sooner or

later, regardless of whether you are trapping or not. It is coming to New Jersey, and there is no way to keep it from coming.

I think it is interesting that a lot of counties have done away with the fox bounty, because foxes are now considered a very good animal -- a good predator. They are very good rodents in insect control. I think it is also interesting that the Division of Fish and Game, who are considered the main source of information, are paid by the hunters and trappers for their information. You had better believe that they are not going to say that hunting and trapping is not good.

Mayor Donalson mentioned about dogs and the vets. Trappers who find a dog in a trap -- if the dog is maimed -- they are going to dispatch this animal. They are either going to club it or shoot it or whatever is needed. If the animal is not injured, they are going to release it and let it go. This is why veterinarians do not get many trapped animals. It is because the only ones that would probably be turned into a vet would be the ones found by an individual who maybe was humane-minded and not a trapper.

The number of professional hunters and trappers in New Jersey, according to the Department of Labor last year, was 62 individuals, so maybe you people should look at your income tax returns and not have us check up on that.

You mentioned that you needed an alternative method. We really haven't had to come up with an alternative method of trapping because we haven't needed it yet. If we need it, then technology will come up with it.

Thank you.

AUDIENCE: (Applause)

SENATOR DUMONT: Are you trying to imply that those of us who might not be for this bill do not love animals or do not have any consideration for them?

MS. BARRY: No, I'm implying that maybe you are aware of the cruelties that are being performed. You see, at one time I didn't think that trapping hunting was cruel either, but sometimes when you come into contact with some of the cruelties, then you become aware of these cruelties. Then you must oppose them.

SENATOR ZANE: What was the percentage of trappers you mentioned who are part of my constituency?

MS. BARRY: That were a part of your constituency?

SENATOR ZANE: Yes.

MS. BARRY: No, these were the trappers of the entire State.

SENATOR ZANE: I just want to point out that I always stick up for the small man.

AUDIENCE: (Applause)

MS. BARRY: Maybe you need to know that there are other people out there.

SENATOR ZANE: I'll rely upon your statistics to substantiate that, because obviously, there are very few trappers in comparison with the rest. The inference that I resent -- and, since you have made it personal, so will I -- is the suggestion that I'm anti-animal or that I am for some inhumane treatment, etc. Let me tell you something. I recognize trapping as something that has been here for a long time, and I am tired of people who make up their minds that things that have been traditional and around for a long time, and are part of the American way, should be changed because of a few isolated instances, such as we are talking about in a park in Union County where somebody who has no respect for the law placed a trap, and an animal ended up injured. I haven't heard one person today cite an example of a trapper who has misused a trap and caused an animal to be maimed. I haven't heard an example yet.

MS. BARRY: We wouldn't hear about that.

AUDIENCE: (Applause)

MS. BARRY: But, I do know that you have voted for--

WOMAN FROM AUDIENCE: I know of an animal that was caught in a trap.

MS. BARRY: Wait, how about if you speak--

SENATOR ZANE: If you are on the list, ma'am, we will eventually get to you.

MS. BARRY: I know that you vote for humane legislation, and I thank you for that. Thank you. Is there anything else?

SENATOR DUMONT: I have one more thing. You are aware of the fact that when this bill was transferred from a committee -- the committee to which it had first been referred -- to this Committee, it was done by a vote of the entire Senate. Do you understand that?

MS. BARRY: I think the vote was 17 to 16, wasn't it?

SENATOR DUMONT: It was 16 to 15, as I recall, but at least it was a majority of those present at that time in voting on it.

MS. BARRY: Yes.

SENATOR DUMONT: All right.

MS. BARRY: Why are only two of the Committee members here instead of all five?

SENATOR DUMONT: I can't answer that because of the fact that I came 110 miles each way to be here, and I have to leave very shortly.

MS. BARRY: I appreciate that.

SENATOR DUMONT: In addition to that, I might tell you that most of the time when I am in Trenton, or driving elsewhere, I have a golden retriever with me whom I love very much. She is one of the few dogs that come into the Senate Chamber, as a matter of fact. She is not with me today because it is too long of a trip for her. So, I would resent any implication that I don't care for animals.

MS. BARRY: Maybe you just aren't aware of the cruelty of the leghold trap. That is what I am trying to say.

SENATOR DUMONT: Maybe I am aware of other--

MS. BARRY: (interrupting) Many, many trappers are very humane when it comes to dogs and cats. They probably take very good care of their pets at home, and they are probably good to their wives and children. But, they set these leghold traps and, you know-- Okay?

SENATOR DUMONT: Well, I don't do any trapping or hunting at all, but that doesn't mean that I have got to impose whatever my practices may be on everybody else.

MS. BARRY: Okay.

AUDIENCE: (Applause)

SENATOR ZANE: Jim Merril from the South Jersey Fur Trappers Association?

GENTLEMAN FROM AUDIENCE: May I make one point, Mr. Zane?

SENATOR ZANE: Are you Jim Merril?

GENTLEMAN FROM AUDIENCE: No.

SENATOR ZANE: Yes, go ahead. Just identify yourself.

W A R R E N (Inaudible): Perhaps all the municipalities and townships should have laws which state that dogs should be chained. I just wanted to make that point.

SENATOR ZANE: Thank you very much.

AUDIENCE: (Applause)

J I M M E R R I L: Mr. Chairman, Senator Dumont, my name is Jim Merrill. I represent the New Jersey State Federation of Sportmen's Clubs, which has a membership of 50,000, give or take 1,000. I am also a representative of the South Jersey Fur Takers and the New Jersey Coastal Fur Takers.

I have to apologize to you. I have a prepared statement, but I left it at home. I would like to state that I have been a trapper for forty-two years, and I am on a disability pension. I do supplement my income by trapping. I've been off from work now for eight years, and this money is very vital to my existence.

I have been fighting this legislation for quite awhile, and it really gets to me when I have to sit and go through all of this just to do something that is perfectly legal and ethical.

I have a trap here that I want to show you, Senator. I want to show you how the average trapper rigs it up with swivels. They keep the animal from twisting his leg off. (Demonstrates trap) There is a swivel which goes on a stake, there is a swivel in the middle, and there is a swivel on the trap. This is the trap that most fox trappers or coon trappers use.

As I said, I've got a lot of facts and figures which you have heard over and over and over. If you have any questions, I would be glad to answer them.

SENATOR ZANE: Thank you very much.

AUDIENCE: (Applause)

SENATOR ZANE: Assemblyman Martin Herman, representing Gloucester, Salem, and Cumberland Counties?

A S S E M B L Y M A N M A R T I N A. H E R M A N: Thank you, Senator Zane. I thanked Senator Dumont before he left. I think it is quite remarkable that he did take the time to come all the way down here. It is consistent with his attitude, and he has always been willing on a bipartisan basis to judge every issue on its merits. I think that is why he has the reputation he has throughout this State.

I would like to point out a few things, if I may. I'll try not to bear repetition. I would just like to set the record straight concerning the Committee process. It is interesting how some of the people who were testifying in favor of this particular bill today have reasonably short memories about the process. They did raise, I assume, the fact that the bill was originally in the Assembly Agriculture and Environment Committee, and they looked to get the bill out of there. It was sent to my Judiciary Committee in the Assembly, and they looked to get the bill out of there. They went shopping for a committee, and where did it wind up in the Assembly? -- in the Commerce, Industry and Profession Committee, where the sponsor's running mate is the Chairman. That is fair.

It is okay to belabor the process that way. In other words, you go shopping for the various committees in order to get the bill out, but the fact that the bill got to your Committee where it belongs is unfair. I just point that out for the purpose of the record.

I would also like to point out a few other things just to balance this particular record. I, in one fashion or another, have been reviewing this particular legislation, like you, Ray, for onward of ten years. It is just interesting that every objective source, and I am talking about people from the Department of Environmental Protection, biologists, research assistants -- people that I had at one time heard in a committee in which I was involved regarding the environment some years ago as an Assembly member -- who testified that this was a safe, reasonable, and prudent device. They said that this is the way that it ought to be done -- that it was ecologically sound -- that it was environmentally sound -- that it provided a proper balance -- that it was needed for the farmer -- that it was needed to keep the balance of nature in order. These people came in from all over the country to testify before an Assembly Committee some years ago. I know that Jim Furlong, who is seated right in the front row, remembers that testimony very, very well.

There is no doubt that based on the objective testimony of research scientists throughout this country, as well as New Jersey scientists, that this trap should not be banned.

I would like to talk about something that I know you have spoken about on a number of occasions, and that is, home rule. Most of these people who oppose the trap and who support the bill that is now before you come from counties of the first and second class. Interestingly enough, as we all know, New Jersey has had a local option for many, many years. The steel trap is banned in counties of the first and second class, but isn't it ironic that people will travel from all over this State to tell people in Cumberland, Salem, Gloucester, Atlantic, and other counties what they should do in their own county? You could see the furor if you or I or other members of the South Jersey Delegation were to go up to Bergen County and tell them how to operate in Bergen County.

The point is, there is local option now in New Jersey, and that local option has been fairly set. If you don't want it in Bergen, Middlesex, Hudson, or Essex, well, that is already the law. But, for the people who make a livelihood from it, -- the people who want it to protect dams and farms and all other sources of income, and to preserve their land, as they have been doing for well over 200 years in this particular area -- then I think the law ought to stand as it is.

If we are going to talk about fairness and due process, what about the provision in this particular bill, Senator, which would in essence confiscate legal traps? Today I am able to trap, I own my own equipment, and tomorrow, if this bill is signed into law, you make me a criminal. I have to turn in my steel traps without compensation. Well, if that is what the first amendment is all about, and that is what the Constitution is all about, and that is what due process is all about, maybe we ought to have another Tea Party, and take it up to Bergen County.

AUDIENCE: (Applause)

ASSEMBLYMAN HERMAN: (continuing) I would like to think too, Senator, just to set the record straight -- I know that you have long been a supporter of the S.P.C.A. and other animal causes, and that you have done free work, just as I have, for a number of organizations, and you have supported a number of bills which deal with safety of animals over the past years, including Senator Orechio's recent bills, which I got out of the Assembly Judiciary Committee and which I know you

supported in the Senate. So, it isn't a question of who is pro-animal and who isn't pro-animal. The question is, what is fair and what is right? I have to tell you that these folks who appeared here today in support of this bill -- it is interesting that they are not at a pact hearing like they were in Trenton, where the trappers of this State didn't get, in my opinion, a fair opportunity to be heard. They were shuffled in and shuffled out at the hearing. I would like to see some of these people go out and find out what it is all about. Maybe they ought to come down during trapping season like you and I have done over the past years to find out what it is all about -- what is being done here in Salem County and other South Jersey counties, rather than doing it out of those areas where, in those rare instances, those traps are being set illegally in places where they are now banned.

In closing, Senator, I would urge you not to release this bill from Committee. I would urge your colleagues to vote likewise not to release this bill. What has sufficed for two hundred years as a fair and proper way should suffice for another couple of hundred years. I think this bill, if released from Committee, would be a travesty and an unfairness to the people of Salem County and all of the trappers of South Jersey.

I thank you for holding the hearing today. If you will pardon me, I changed my scheduled around so that I could come here and I am going to have to leave early. I thank you for holding this hearing, and I hope you will be able to do what we were not able to do in the Assembly, and that is, to stop some of the North Jersey legislators who have more numbers than we do from running all over us. If it were left to just numbers, and this bill is let out of Committee, I think a great harm will come to the trappers of South Jersey. I do urge you not to release the bill from Committee, because it would be wrong to do so. Thank you for affording me the opportunity to be heard.

SENATOR ZANE: Assemblyman Herman, I want you to know that I really appreciate your comments. You and I have served in the Legislature for ten years together. I would like to point out to you, as my running mate a full-page ad -- almost a full page ad -- to residents of Salem, Cumberland, and Gloucester counties. It is a lengthy ad. It says,

"Your State Senator Zane paints your heart black and your brain dim. The reason for this"--

The ad, incidentally, was paid for by the Friends of Animals from Neptune, New Jersey. They are critical primarily because we have held a public hearing in Salem County.

You and I very recently were subject to some criticism, were we not, by someone from Pennsville who said that we don't bring government out of Trenton? Do you find a paradox in that? I just say that rhetorically. That is what we are doing. We are trying to bring it down here, and if those from Neptune didn't want to make the trip, maybe it is because they are really not affected by it. maybe it is because they are really not affected by it.

ASSEMBLYMAN HERMAN: Thank you very kindly. I very much appreciate that.

SENATOR ZANE: Thank you very much. James Fudd, Trapper's Association? James is not here I guess. Jim DeStephano, New Jersey Trapper's Association?

JAMES DeSTEPHANO: Senator, most of this has already been covered. How about if I just submit my written statement?

SENATOR ZANE: That is fine. What is your position on A-3207?

MR. DeSTEPHANO: We're opposed to it totally. I also have a position here from Fred Space from Sussex County. He is opposed to it. I have a paper from Robert Wystock of the University of Pennsylvania. He has done a study which may help your Committee.

SENATOR ZANE: Okay, will you submit that to the secretary? Thank you very much.

AUDIENCE: (Applause)

SENATOR ZANE: Is Dr. Lawrence Somar from the University of Pennsylvania present?

SOMEONE FROM AUDIENCE: Sir, he wasn't able to come. He has given me written testimony to submit for him.

SENATOR ZANE: You said you submitted it?

MR. DeSTEPHANO: Yes.

SENATOR ZANE: Is Holly Favorito here from the Student Action Corporation for Animals? (not present) Is Mary Knopke from the American Humane Society here? (not present) Is Josephine Peters from the Cumberland County SPCA here? (not present) Is Floyd Kucharsky from Friends of Animals here? (not present) Is Bill Reitter from Friends of Animals here? (not present) Is Steven Zamuck from Friends of Animals here? (not present) I would imagine that they are in Trenton for that one o'clock meeting. Is Joyce Brothers here? That has got to be-- Is there really a Joyce Brothers here? (not present)

SOMEONE FROM AUDIENCE: That is "the" Dr. Joyce Brothers.

SENATOR ZANE: It is? Is it really Dr. Joyce Brothers? Is there a John Kirch from Friends of Animals here? (not present) Is Gilda Hoffman from Friends of Animals here? (not present) How about George D'Andridi from Friends of Animals? (not present) Ruth Fischer from Friends of Animals? (not present) Is Hope Buyukmihci here from Unexpected Wildlife Refuge here?

HOPE BUYUKMIHCI: Senator Zane, ladies and gentlemen, my husband and I have a wildlife refuge in Atlantic County. We got this refuge twenty-two years ago, and we were told by trappers and others that if we didn't trap and hunt, we would be overrun with animals. We have been there twenty-two years; we have muskrats, and we have a forty-acre pond with a thousand-foot dike. The muskrats have not multiplied. We don't allow any trapping at all, and they have not destroyed the dike in twenty-two years.

I think our problem is that we talk about what might be if we don't trap. We have always trapped. How do we know what might be? We had this little experiment for twenty-two years on three hundred acres of New Jersey land. We are not overrun with animals, and we have a wonderful opportunity to study these animals.

I have fed a muskrat by hand several times, and the poor animal is so scared that she reminded me of myself when I was afraid to do something. She would come near my hand, and then she would retreat and cry as if to say, "Oh, I don't dare do it."

Anyway, I have spent countless hours in the woods, and I have written books and articles about these animals. They are wonderful to study, and if we would stop trapping and exploiting them, we could open

up a whole new world for our children and ourselves. I wish you would try it. Thank you.

AUDIENCE: (Applause)

SENATOR ZANE: Is there a Bob Itchmoney from the Division of Fish, Game, and Wildlife here?

ROBERT ITCHMONEY: My name is Robert Itchmoney, and I am here to represent the New Jersey Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife on behalf of Director Russell A. Cookingham. Mr. Cookingham wishes to convey his apologies at not being able to testify himself; however, he is currently attending an International Fish and Game Commissioners' meeting in Wisconsin.

The Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife feels that Assembly Bill 3207, which would prohibit the use, manufacture, sale, possession or transportation of any steel-jawed leghold trap and provide for the confiscation of these devices, ignores the serious adverse impacts upon agriculture, the environment, public health and New Jersey's economy that would result if this bill is passed as written.

Current concerns over the epidemic of raccoon rabies in neighboring states of Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia has prompted health advisories by State and Federal human and animal health authorities. Leghold traps are involved in the harvest of 40,000 raccoons from New Jersey each year. The leghold trap may not prevent rabies from spreading into New Jersey, but it may decrease the frequency or intensity if disease outbreaks.

Many New Jersey farmers rely on trappers to control furbearing animals which can and do wreak havoc with the lands and crops (sweet corn, etc.). The leghold trap is instrumental to the trappers when carrying out this service. This service is provided at no cost to the farmer, and it also provides a livelihood for a sizeable number of people who constitute the wild fur industry in New Jersey. If leghold traps were banned, farmers would have to turn to less humane and ecologically sound means of control, such as poisoning.

Enactment of this bill would virtually eliminate trapping of some species of furbearers (fox and raccons) in New Jersey and would cause a loss of 30% (one million dollars) of the \$3.1 million derived annually from New Jersey raw furs. This would be a terrible economic

hardship on the State's licensed trappers, half of whom earn less than \$15,000 annually from jobs not related to trapping. Also, a substantial number of the trappers are living on fixed incomes and depend upon seasonal trapping to supplement their incomes. Wildlife in New Jersey represents a renewable resource which, if properly managed, can provide important benefits to our citizens.

Furs from New Jersey are raw materials which are used to generate more than \$10 million a year in fur garments. Restricting this source of materials will have a very serious effect on the fur garment industry, which in our State, produces retail sales of more than \$24 million a year.

Existing New Jersey statutes now prevent the use of the leghold traps in eleven of its twenty-one counties. Unfortunately, most nontrappers do not understand what a "legal" leghold (foothold) trap is. It is not the crushing device as sometimes proclaimed, but an efficient implement for grasping and holding an animal's foot. Only rarely is the animal seriously injured.

We share the concerns of those who seek to conserve the wildlife resources of our State. We also recognize our responsibilities to maintain healthy populations of our furbearing animals while, at the same time, reducing related crop damage and public health risks which would arise from the elimination of an effective wildlife management program.

Assembly Bill 3207 does not address the health, economic and technical issues that are the responsibilities of the Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife. Thank you.

Senator, if I may, we put together this-- There seems to be big questions about what is legal and what is illegal. (Mr. Itchmoney proceeds to show how the variations of leghold traps affect animals in different counties.)

SENATOR ZANE: Is Bergen one of them?

MR. ITCHMONEY: Yes. (Mr. Itchmoney continues with demonstration)

SENATOR ZANE: The position of Fish and Game is in opposition to the bill, is that correct?

MR. ITCHMONEY: The Division has great concerns that this bill is ignoring many aspects.

SENATOR ZANE: Is the position in opposition to the bill or are you supporting it?

MR. ITCHMONEY: I've been instructed to limit my testimony to only the technical matters of this bill.

SENATOR ZANE: I'm a Senator in the State of New Jersey, and I am going to vote. Fish and Game happens to be one of the agencies within the State.

MR. ITCHMONEY: We support the use of the leghold trap.

SENATOR ZANE: Okay, so you are not supportive of the bill that would ban it. Is that correct?

MR. ITCHMONEY: We support the use of leghold traps.

SENATOR ZANE: You're not opposed to a bill that would ban it? You're not supportive of a bill that would ban it? Is that correct?

MR. ITCHMONEY: We feel that there are concerns that are raised by this bill.

SENATOR ZANE: Okay. Is there an H. S. Clark here from Salem? (not present) Is Ted Conklin, a trapper from Union County, here?

T E D C O N K L I N: Thank you, Senator Zane. I am a trapper from Union. As you know, traps in Union County are illegal -- leghold traps. My wife and I trap in a first and second-class county, and we use box traps for raccoons and 110 conibears for muskrats. I want to show you what a 110 conibear is. This is it right here (demonstrates trap to audience). It doesn't catch muskrats very well, and I wish I had my legholds back. I could have made at least a thousand dollars this year, but anyway--

Because of the ban on the leghold traps, we hardly have any fox left because of a disease called mange. The main diet of the fox is mice. Now that the fox is gone, there is a skunk explosion. There are skunks everywhere. Skunks love to eat mice. They are pests, they stink, and they tear up the garbage cans for food. They are great rabies carriers, and are not appreciated by many people.

We have also got an overpopulation of muskrats. Folks who live near rivers in Union and Essex counties can't even grow a garden because the leghold has been banned. It has also made corn farmers sell out because they are banned. Raccoons love corn too.

This proposed ban, I feel, is anti-farmer. Farmers are the backbone of this country, and without them, we would have no food.

Assemblymen Mazur and Karcher who are strong supporters of this bill happen to be vegetarians, but what they don't understand is that if these pests continue, they won't have any vegetables left to eat. Mazur and Karcher think that animals should have rights. If animals do have rights, that means that that chicken you ate yesterday can take you to court and sue you.

If furbearers had no fur on them, would they have to be trapped? Yes, they would, because they would be overpopulated anyway.

I would like to close by calling my wife or anybody else who would like to stick his hand in a number one and one-half long-spring, or a number one, which is commonly used in the counties where they are still legal-- Debbie, will you come up and stick your hand in this, please?

As you can see, this is a number one and one-half long-spring. It can catch fox, raccoon, and it can hold a coyote. We do not use these on muskrats. You can, but we like to use a number one. Of course, muskrats drown fast -- within three minutes.

Just stick your hand in there and tell me how it feels.

(Mrs. Conklin puts her hand in trap)

MRS. CONKLIN: It doesn't hurt at all.

MR. CONKLIN: That is a number one and one-half. Most trappers don't even use a number one and one-half for muskrats. They use these number ones. You see, Senator Zane, here is a number one. This is the trap I prefer, but unfortunately, I can't use them any longer, and I regret that.

I thank you very much for holding this meeting.

AUDIENCE: (Applause)

SENATOR ZANE: Is there a Hope Ryden from Friends of Animals here? (not present) Is Ernest Graf here? (not present) Is Dr. George Whitney here? (not present) Is Jesse Williams here?

JESSE WILLIAMS: First of all, I would like to thank you, Senator, for letting me speak here today.

SENATOR ZANE: Where are you from, Mr. Williams?

MR. WILLIAMS: My name is Jesse Williams. I am a resident of Lower Alloway Creek Township, Canton, New Jersey.

I am here to ask you not to vote for Assembly Bill 3207. I feel I can speak for twenty years as a deputy conservation officer and thirty-nine years as a trapper in Salem County.

We need and must have the leghold trap. This type of trap is the only kind of trap we can use in Pond Marsh to trap muskrats. It is the only safe trap to use in fox and coon trapping. Without this time-tested tool, the agriculture and wildlife habitat would decline.

My neighbors' lives and my life would be in danger if the tide water banks were to break and flood because the muskrats had tunneled holes in the banks holding the tide back.

Trappers need the leghold traps to keep the rats in check. On the upland, we must have the leghold traps to keep the predators in a population we can all live with.

I have heard complaints about dogs and cats caught in leghold traps. I own nine hunting dogs and one cat. If dogs and cats were kept in check by their owners according to the State laws, I see no danger to our pets.

The people of Salem County are blessed with a reproducing resource. A lot of people would not have food on the table or money to pay taxes and bills if all traps were eliminated, especially the leghold traps. Even those children who went on to college have benefitted from trapping. My father payed the doctor twenty-five muskrat pelts when I was born, and when I was injured in an accident and could not work for nine months until the doctor released me, I trapped and raised four kids, all of school age. Without trapping and the leghold traps, a lot of people would end up on welfare instead of working for a living like they would like to.

I feel people that would deprive hard-working persons are the same kind of people who would shoot down a Korean airliner full of helpless people. Thank you.

AUDIENCE: (Applause)

SENATOR ZANE: Edward Camlin, trapper?

E D W A R D C A M L I N: Good afternoon. My name is Ed Camlin. I am a trapper from Gloucester County. I have been trapping since I was fourteen, and in my experiences I have never, honestly, caught any cats or dogs.

During my high school and college education, trapping was a supplementary source of income. In 1976 when my father passed away, the money I made from trapping made it a little easier for the rest of my family.

After graduating from college, I proceeded to work at T. Zander & Sons, Inc., where I am still employed on a full-time basis as a furrier. Being employed year round, my family and I rely solely upon the fur industry, not just as a second income, but 100%.

In conclusion, if this bill is passed, it not only means a possibility of loss of employment, but also income. Thank you.

AUDIENCE: (Applause)

SENATOR ZANE: Edgar Dawson, trapper? (not present) Howard Henderson, trapper?

REGGIE HENDERSON: Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, first of all, my name is Reggie Henderson. I am thirty-five years old, married, and have three children. I live in Lower Alloways Creek Township. I have been trapping since I was ten years old. I have heard some things here today, but there is one thing I want to make clear. Some of our "anti's" were talking being opposed to sport hunting and the fact that they would go along with sport hunting unless it was deemed that the person needed meat for his table. Well, we have been talking about trapping -- mostly furs. I don't think we have pointed out today that there is also a large meat industry involved. What it does is, it allows the local people an alternative to beef, chicken, or whatever else. It is at a very reasonable price, and it is readily available, so I think this is something that needs to be pointed out -- that this meat is available to the middle and low-income families. I might also point out that it is quite tasty.

Almost everything I was going to talk about today has already been covered, so I am going to be brief. In 1975, I was out of work, and if it weren't for trapping, I wouldn't have had food for my table and I wouldn't have been able to pay my bills. I can honestly say that I have never caught a cat or a dog in twenty-five years of trapping.

We have heard a lot about the Pond Meadows, the leghold trap, and the muskrats, but we also need to point out that these same Pond Meadows are used by the farmers for irrigation. They are also breeding

grounds for numerous species of animals, fish, and wildlife. You have also heard a lot about the banks being eroded and dug into by the muskrats, so I won't go into that.

To be even more specific, let's talk about the inhumane part. I am presently working on a three and one-half mile road widening job that runs through the atomic plant. This road runs directly across the wetlands. During the past month, I have kept a record of the animals that were completely flattened by cars and trucks. This includes three cats, seven possums, four raccoons, and two muskrats. That is a total of sixteen. For every one I find dead, I speculate that at least two more are fatally injured and crawl into the weeds and die a slow death, so that is approximately forty-eight in one month along a three and one-half mile stretch.

Now, would we consider outlawing motor vehicles? I believe I made my point. Thank you. Are there any questions?

AUDIENCE: (Applause)

SENATOR ZANE: Is Leonard Soucy from Friends of Animals present? (not present) Harry and Lisa Beal, trappers? You must be Lisa.

L I S A B E A L: I am Lisa Beal, and I am the daughter of a trapper. I have lived in Lower Alloways Creek all of my life.

My father has been a trapper since he was six years old, and it is his way of life. He farms during the summer, but our winter livelihood depends totally upon his trapping. I have been brought up to believe that hunting laws safeguard animals from excessive killing. These laws set the time of year that hunting is permitted, and the kinds of game that can be caught.

I believe that hunting laws have helped preseve animals and that is what I call the "law of conservation."

The trapping of furbearing animals has been and will continue to be an important business all over our country.

In 1670, the Hudson Bay Company was formed and continues to this day as a thriving organization. Trappers and fur traders were the first to explore much of this county. Trapping was a necessity for their survival, and it is just as important for our trappers today.

Much of the criticism directed at trappers today is from misguided individuals who are all too willing to accept second-hand information as the truth. I am extending an invitation to anyone who wants to come to Lower Alloways Creek or anywhere in South Jersey to see how we trap. Please come; you're invited. Thank you.

AUDIENCE: (Applause)

SENATOR ZANE: Paul Wermuth, Trapper's Association?

P A U L W E R M U T H: Thank you, Senator Zane, for having me here. Most of the information I have for presentation has already been given, so I will be very brief. I have a letter from an individual who lost a garden in its entirety. He was dependant upon it for the winter. I have my own personal statement, which has pretty much been covered, and I have a letter from a man who runs a private estate in Bernardsville who had many problems.

SENATOR ZANE: Where are you from, Mr. Wermuth?

MR. WERMUTH: Bernardsville, New Jersey.

SENATOR ZANE: Which is in what county?

MR. WERMUTH: That is Somerset County. I also have a letter from a gentleman who had ground hog problems and lost all of his annuals. We tried to work with box traps with the ground hog for seven or eight days, but we never did catch him. We couldn't shoot him because of the location of other buildings in the area. Eventually we ended up just filling the hole to discourage the animal. It took him about ten days to leave.

I also have a letter from a psychiatrist, Dr. Neil Lobarb. He is a professor of psychology at Kean State College. Basically, he says that bills that are against hunting, fishing and trapping are a waste of government time.

There are a few things that I have been asked to say in order to help you understand why the Division of Fish and Game could not make a statement as to being pro or con on Bill A-3207. They are under Governor's orders.

SENATOR ZANE: Where did you get that information? Sir, you made a statement. Where did you get that information?

MR. WERMUTH: I got it from an individual in the Division of Fish and Game. I don't know the person's name.

SENATOR ZANE: Was it the fellow who testified? That is a yes or a no.

MR. WERMUTH: Do I have to say?

SENATOR ZANE: Well, you don't have to tell me. I'm not going to put you in jail.

MR. WERMUTH: I would prefer not to tell you, but it did come from the Division of Fish and Game.

SENATOR ZANE: And, he indicated to you what?

MR. WERMUTH: That Fish and Game is under the orders of Governor Kean not to speak out as to whether they are against or for the bill, but rather that they are for the use of the leghold trap. I'm not in politics.

SENATOR ZANE: He's not even running for office.

MR. WERMUTH: As we have heard, there are questions of human rights versus animals rights. I have done a tremendous amount of depredation control on animals. Some of it has been humorous; some of it has been sad; some of it has been certainly educational. People have called me about a big ground hog or a big rat getting into their garbage, and I find out that I am dealing with a possum. People have a problem with animal identification. They are suburbanites, and when they have problems with animals, they don't always identify the animal correctly. Therefore, many problems in trapping are obviously incorrectly identified.

SENATOR ZANE: What is your position on the bill? Are you in opposition to the bill?

MR. WERMUTH: We are in opposition to the bill. People have problems with gardens, they have problems with property. An interesting one I had was a man who had a family of raccoons living in his attic. Well, he was going to handle it himself. He shot two raccoons off the rafters of his house, went for the third one on the side of his house, and quit there when he found out that he was blowing holes through his house and his neighbor's house. He called me, and I came over immediately. It was a matter of just using a snare, and we managed to remove the animals. I used various means to discourage the animals from coming back. These devices and means that were used came from years of experience in the field of trapping.

I don't know if the gentleman from the Humane Society is still here, but he referred to the stress that animals are put under when caught in a leghold trap. It is interesting to note that the Humane Society also makes it a fact that animals are under the same stress in box traps or any other trap that detains an animal alive. Trappers are also aware of this, and they do everything possible that they can to treat the animal with as much humanism as possible and to prevent as much stress as possible.

We have talked about other countries that have banned trapping. Many European countries have a completely decimated wildlife. In England, trapping consisted mostly of rabbits and hares. Some trapping was done in fox, but fox hunting is such a strong lobby in England that they eventually cancelled the use of the leghold trap, but not until a substitute for the leghold trap was found to be useful and was instituted.

There have been questions regarding the foothold snare that was developed in Canada. Again, it holds the animal alive, stress is involved, and the use out of now has been highly questioned by many people. There are trappers in Canada who have thought highly of it. There have been some cases spoken about where this was tried here in the United States. It was tried in the Southwest by professional trappers, and the snare was simply torn apart by coyotes and made absolutely useless.

Regarding the person who talks about having caught a dog, I at one time owned a Welsh terrier. She weighed seventeen pounds, full of power, full of dynamite -- a spunky little dog, as well as a very good house pet. We deeply admired her, and we suffered a loss when she was gone. During the years that I hunted her, day and night -- daytime for birds and nighttime for coon and possum -- she had gotten caught in traps at various times. At no time did she ever suffer any damage. Her size is equivalent to a raccoon, a fox, and many of our furbearers in New Jersey, yet she had never suffered any damaged from any traps.

I thank you for your time.

SENATOR ZANE: Thank you very much.

AUDIENCE: (Applause)

SENATOR ZANE: Donald Hoyt, Sr., President of the National Trapper's Association, from Marshall, Michigan, please?

DONALD HOYT, S.R.: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll keep my remarks brief in hopes that you might remember them.

An animal rights movement in this country is gaining steam. We have people right in this room who think that there are muskrats that have a right not to be trapped. There are many animal welfare cults that now want animals to have rights just like people. If animals are going to have rights like people, there are a couple of things I want to know.

Does a coon have more rights than a rat and why? Does a rat have more rights than a cockroach, and again, I want to know why?

The hand or foot of a person can not be honestly compared to the paw of an animal. If you went barefoot for just one subfreezing night, your feet would be frozen. They would have to be amputated. Yet, animals go barefoot all winter long with no ill effects. Nature made the paws of animals tough to withstand frozen ground, snow, ice, sharp rocks, briars, and foothold traps. You will notice that I don't say leghold trap. That is a misnomer. Traps catch an animal by the paw, not by the leg. That is how I know when I see a picture of an animal with a leg injury way up high -- that he didn't get the injury in a trap as is often claimed. Traps just can't reach that high.

The old respected American Humane Society -- not to be confused with a large animal welfare cult using a similar name -- posted a \$10,000 reward more than twenty years ago for the invention of a workable, practical trap more humane than the foothold traps. Today, after more than twenty years, that reward remains uncollected.

In 1975, two days of hearings in regard to the foothold trap were held in Washington, D.C. Three hundred forty-seven pages of testimony were taken. After Mary Tyler Moore and similar wildlife experts had testified, and after the learned wildlife biologists from the Fish and Game Department had their say, the bottom line was, and still is, that there is no workable alternative to the foothold trap.

We are all ignorant on some subjects. Certainly it would be ridiculous for a person who doesn't know the difference between a sacrifice bunt and a home run to testify before a Senate committee on the subject of baseball. Yet here today to testify on the subject of trapping are representatives of various animal welfare cults -- people

who literally do not know the difference between a mink and an otter, or the difference between a conibear trap and a snare. They expect to compare the trapping of an animal to shutting your hand in a car door. That is like comparing stepping off the curb in front of your house to falling off a cliff.

There is nothing in the background of these people which would suggest that they are qualified to dispute professional wildlife managers from the New Jersey Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife. They are not qualified by either education or experience to contradict trappers with years of actual trap-line experience.

Humane societies and the like often do a very good job dealing with problems related to domestic animals. This is a subject that they are familiar with. But, they are in no way qualified to advise on the subject of trapping and wildlife management. The experts in this area are the Fish and Game Division personnel and the trappers themselves. Believe them. They know what they are talking about.

Thank you.

SENATOR ZANE: Thank you.

AUDIENCE: (Applause)

SENATOR ZANE: Linda Catalano, National & State Wildlife Societies? (not present) Richard Lee, Board of Agriculture?

R I C H A R D L E E: Thank you, Senator, for allowing us to testify. My name is Richard Lee, and I am the President of the Mercer County Board of Agriculture. At our meeting Monday night, I was asked to testify against the anti-trapping bill, A-3207. The Mercer County Board of Agriculture feels that any anti-trapping legislation is contrary to farm legislation which states that an owner or an operator of a commercial farm has the right to control pests and predators. There are predators such as fox that can only be caught by leghold traps.

Farming is a very difficult business this day, and if it is to continue to exist in New Jersey, it needs all the tools available to control problems that can be controlled. Animals predators are extremely serious to livestock production.

We urge a "no" vote against any anti-trapping legislation. Thank you for permitting me to testify.

SENATOR ZANE: Thank you.

AUDIENCE: (Applause)

SENATOR ZANE: Is Peter Plage from the State Wildlife Society present? Mr. Plage, as I did with the other speakers, I would like to ask you to be brief.

PETER PLAGE: Okay. My name is Peter Plage, and I am a member of the Executive Council of the New Jersey Chapter of the Wildlife Society. I am here today representing the New Jersey Chapter and the national parent organization.

I have a fairly brief statement. The Wildlife Society is an international nonprofit organization comprised of professionals serving the resource management fields, especially wildlife ecology and management. Our Society has over 8,000 members residing in over forty countries. The objectives of the Society are: to develop and promote sound stewardship of wildlife resources and the environments upon which wildlife and humans depend; to undertake an active role in preventing human-induced environmental degradation; to increase awareness and appreciation of wildlife values; and, to seek the highest standards in all activities of the wildlife profession.

The Wildlife Society is dedicated to the wise management and conservation of wildlife. Within this framework, we support the most efficient and appropriate techniques available to accomplish specific management goals. Trapping with steel traps has been used for centuries to harvest wildlife and to reduce animal damage. Today trapping remains an effective, economical, and ecologically sound method of harvesting or controlling certain species of wildlife.

We recognize the need for trapping regulations to accomplish specified management objectives, to assure that humane techniques are used, and to protect non-target species.

The policy of the Wildlife Society -- and this is the parent Society -- in regard to trapping is to recognize that trapping can be used effectively to take certain animals without impairing the well-being of that species, to recognize that trapping has been and currently is a successful technique for capturing animals for specific purposes, to encourage resource agencies to ensure that trapping is permitted in concert with sound stewardship of wildlife, to

recognize that the steel leghold trap represents an effective practical means for capturing certain species of wildlife, and simultaneously, to lessen the impact on non-target species. We encourage the development of improved traps, better trapping techniques, and effective alternate methods of taking animals. Lastly, we promote and encourage development of new approaches for improving decisions affecting the biological and social impacts of trapping.

In conclusion, I would like to say that the Wildlife Society generally believes that the trained wildlife biologists should have a principal say in what regulations and legislation are instituted. Of course, in New Jersey, that would be the Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife and their biologists.

AUDIENCE: (Applause)

SENATOR ZANE: Is George D'Anderade from the Hound Association here? (not present) Is John Schlump from the South Jersey Hound Howners Association here?

Sir, what is your name? Would you like to testify? Rather than to comment, do you want to testify, sir? Sit down. I'll call you next. There are a lot of other people--

CHARLES G. SANTORA: No, I don't think that is fair.

SENATOR ZANE: Sir, there are a lot of other people who are here and on the list. If you would like to testify, I'll make certain that you testify next.

MR. SANTORA: No, I don't think that is fair. I'm concerned with the fact that you won't even let this out of Committee.

SENATOR ZANE: Would you like to testify, or would you just like to walk out?

MR. SANTORA: (inaudible)

SENATOR ZANE: Fine then. Please do not indicate that this Committee was unfair to you then.

MR. SANTORA: I will. I will indicate that.

SENATOR ZANE: Well, fine, you're obviously ridiculous if you do because you are next to testify.

MR. SANTORA: That is your opinion.

(Mr. Santora leaves room.)

SENATOR ZANE: I don't know how I can be more accommodating than that. There are still twenty more people to speak.

Mr. Schlump?

J O H N S C H L U M P: Thank you, Mr. Senator. My name is John Schlump, and I represent the Hound Owners of South Jersey, which consists of fox hound, rabbit hound, coon hound, and hunting dog enthusiasts.

We are very much opposed to the leghold trap, and we want legislation to ban the leghold trap in the State of New Jersey.

Before I start, I have watched people put their hands in these traps, and I am challenging any person in this room to come up here. My finger is about the size of a coon leg or a fox leg. I'm challenging anyone to come here and stick his finger in this trap and leave it there for twelve hours without suffering any ill effects. Would anyone like to do so? (no response)

I have hunted and trapped for the last twenty-five years. When I hunted as a boy, I never found leghold traps set in the woods. Traps were set in streams, ponds, meadows and marshes. Muskrats were then \$.50 to \$.75. Foxes had a \$3.00 bounty on them, and coon and fox hides were almost worthless. Then in the last ten to fifteen years, furs took a jump in price. Muskrats went up to \$8.00 to \$10.00, coon went up to \$40.00 to \$50.00, and fox went as high as \$75.00 to \$80.00. At that time, everybody and his brother started trapping for the dollar bill, not for the sport. Almost everywhere I had hunted foxes in Gloucester County where I had lived for twenty-seven years, and Salem County where I had hunted for twenty years, my dogs were now getting caught in traps.

Fed up with this and the decrease of available hunting ground due to the build up of the housing industry, I moved to Cape May County five years ago where there were more woods. I soon found that the trapping problem was the same there. I had my dogs caught, crippled, and even killed due to traps set by trappers. This turned me against the leghold traps.

Leghold traps are not the only means to catch furbearing animals. Muskrats are caught effectively with the 110 conibear, which is this one. (Demonstrates a 110 conibear trap) Most of your trappers use these 110 conibears. They have gotten rid of their leghold traps because when the muskrat is caught in this trap, it will kill him

instantly. If he is caught in this little leghold trap, he will chew his leg off to escape.

They are also caught effectively in this box trap, which is set in the meadow. I have seen box traps like this with two or three muskrats. (Demonstrates box trap) If you set them in the high tide, the muskrat will go in this side, and he can't get out the doors. I've seen three or four muskrats fill up this trap. This will not affect dogs or cats either.

Foxes and coons can be caught with box traps like this one, and if you have any unwanted animals such as a cat-- Well, this is a small version; you can buy bigger ones-- If you have a cat or a dog or a bird or anything, you can turn it loose without any harm done to it.

Leghold traps, such as fox traps and muskrat traps do harm to the leg. The fox or coon will twist and pull, tearing the meat of the leg to the bone, or until the leg breaks, to escape the trap. The muskrat will chew his leg off to free himself.

People have said that muskrats will overpopulate if leghold traps are banned, but very few leghold traps are used for trapping muskrats. Box traps and 110 conibear traps are the most popular.

Leghold traps are so ineffective that many trappers are using the 220 conibear trap and the 330 conibear traps, which are illegal, except for beaver and otter with a permit, to catch coon and fox. They bait small wire cages, which I have right here, and set the trap in front. (Demonstrates a 220 conibear trap) When the animal goes after the sardines in the back, putting his head through this trap, the animal is a dead animal. It breaks the neck or cuts off its breathing. I had one of my best fox hounds killed in a trap like this. Trappers are using this method so that they will have less loss of coon and fox. We have had cats, yard dogs, and hunting dogs killed in my area by these traps. These traps are obviously set by trappers and not by your everyday sportsman.

Some trappers don't tend their traps everyday due to jobs, bad weather, or sickness, but the dog or cat left in these leghold traps for days will automatically lose his foot due to loss of circulation.

I had a fox hound that I was hunting one day. I didn't see him the whole day, although I looked everywhere for him. The next day he came out of the woods in the same area where I was hunting. His foot had a crease mark across it where he had been caught in a trap. He was limping, I took him home and doctored his foot, but he never regained use of that foot.. I had to destroy him because he could not run after that.

If the price of furs went back to \$.50, the trapper would quit trapping, but that wouldn't keep the hunter from hunting. As long as we have more humane and alternative methods of trapping, we should pursue them so hunting and trapping can coexist with each other. Banning the leghold trap would do this and prevent the torture and crippling of many animals.

Thank you.

AUDIENCE: (Applause)

SENATOR ZANE: Okay, thank you. Is Ed Sheppard here? (not present) George Fisher? (not present) Steven Bertonazzi? (not present) Joseph Hancock, a trapper? (not present) Collette Beahme? (not present) Robert Karstetter? (not present) Erv Parker? (not present) John Quinn?

J O H N Q U I N N: I am John Quinn, and I am a member of the South Jersey Fur Takers, Chapter 14A. I am also a member of the New Jersey Trapper's Association, which is affiliated with the South Jersey Fur Farmers. I work with the State, and our club teaches trapper education. It was brought up earlier, so I would like to enlighten on that. I'll skip over everything else that was talked about today.

Everybody has to take a trapper education course in the State of New Jersey in order to be eligible for a trapping license. There is no way you can apply for it -- adult or youngster -- without going through the trapper education course.

We work with the State biologists. They give all the classroom instructions in a two-day course, and our club gives all the field demonstrations -- trap preparation and the ethics of trapping. If you have any questions regarding that, I'll be glad to answer them.

The thing that upsets me as a trapper and as a South Jerseyan is, I hear statements made that in Burlington County, they have no

leghold trap, yet they say how great they are doing with trapping muskrats with no effect on them. This is a bold-faced lie because I have the statistics on the 1981-1982 fur season, and Burlington County had 18,698 muskrats trapped in comparison to Salem County's 92,416 muskrats.

While we were up in Trenton at the Assembly hearings, we had to listen to a lot of this. An Assemblyman from Bergen County stood up and said that they have no leghold trap, and they are the largest trappers of muskrats in the whole country. This was another bold-faced lie. The numbers state that only 12,365 muskrats were trapped in Bergen County compared to the 92,000 down here in Salem County.

Also, we're talking about the livelihood in Salem County alone of 430 trappers for the 1981-1982 season. The conservation groups have a trend against non-trapping. During the past three years, we put 1,600 people through our trapper education courses in the State of New Jersey. Last year alone, we had 426 students. They were adults, youngsters, and women. Entire families have taken the trapper education course together.

We just finished a trapper education course last weekend. We had over 30 adults and youngsters. There were over one hundred who wanted to take the test, so there is an interest in trapping in New Jersey. For those who try to say that there are only a few of us out there who are just trying to make pin money, I would like to inform them that I have a daughter who started college this year, and her tuition is going to come from the trapping I will do this year.

SENATOR ZANE: Thank you. Charles Santora? (not present) Anthony Musumeci? (not present) Bob Busnardo? (not present) Joseph Papai? (not present) Linwood Tice?

L I N W O O D T I C E: Senator, I appreciate the opportunity to speak. I have been waiting here for four hours to do so.

I think it is obvious that I am not a trapper. As a young boy, my grandfather taught me about trapping. I used to go trapping with him, and I learned a great deal about it.

I was a very poor boy, and later in life, when I became a little more affluent, I began buying marshland because I am a conservationist. I can live quite well without any income from my land

at all. I'm proud to say that Lisa Beal's father is my trapper, and part of her support at home, I'm sure, comes from Harry Beal's efforts during the winter.

My activity at the present time is that of a medical legal consultant. I'm a retired professor, and a retired administrator of a college.

Senator, I would like your Committee to think about one thing. We have the same problem in our teaching institutions. The same groups oppose the use of animals in developing new drugs and in developing new surgical procedures. They fight constantly to eliminate that. We cannot develop new drugs unless we use animals first. What human being would want us to use a drug on him or her that had never been tried on anyone else? Such things as open heart surgery, for example, had to be done on animals, large animals, and it had to be perfected before it could be translated to man.

There are a lot of people in this country who love animals more than human beings. I have a sister-in-law who does. She loves her cat more than she loves me. We have such things today as animal cemeteries where people spend thousands of dollars to bury a cat or a dog and put a tombstone on his grave. Money is given by some of these people to some of these organizations which must spend it because it is their livelihood. Consequently, they support campaigns in the name of being humane because it is part of their job. We fight it at the college level constantly. They say, "You can't use animals this way; you can't use them that way." Eventually, they don't want us to use animals at all. It would seem to me that with people starving throughout the world and with people being impoverished that there would be more concern about human beings and less about animals.

There are a lot of my friends in this room who asked me to come here and testify. I happen to own three hundred acres of marshland in Lower Alloways Creek. My interest in it is conserving it for posterity -- to enjoy it as I have. I have no dependence on it financially and, consequently, I have been here for four hours in order to have you look very carefully into where the money comes from to mount the campaigns against relatively poor people who are trying to earn a living doing the way their fathers and grandfathers did.

I thank you for this opportunity, Senator.

AUDIENCE: (Applause)

SENATOR ZANE: Jim Pedersen, trapper?

JAMES D. PEDERSEN: My name is Jim Pedersen, and I came from Sussex County to be here today.

Very few people, other than trappers and wildlife law enforcement personnel, understand the existing laws regarding trapping. Many people are working to outlaw large traps with teeth, which are already illegal.

Many people suggest that trappers use conibears because they kill the animals quickly. Despite Statewide municipal leash laws and a State leash laws, people claim we catch pet dogs. The code states, "No conibear or killer-type traps shall be used unless submerged under water." The reason is quite clear.

The religious philosophical belief which leads to proposed legislation such as A-3207 and S-1575, --i.e., God created man and God created animals; therefore, since it is immoral to kill humans, it is immoral to kill animals -- is no more valid nor widespread than the belief that animals were put on earth for man's use or the belief that man and other species were put in the same environment in order to interrelate with each other. No government has the right to tell anyone what doctrine to follow. Certainly a government should not attempt to supersede God.

I've written an explanation on the need for harvest, using a stream as a model. On the back is a perspective on the steel trap. I would like to submit them for the Committee's consideration.

Thank you for your time and attention

SENATOR ZANE: Thank you.

AUDIENCE: (Applause)

SENATOR ZANE: George Munniksna? (not present)

GEORGE MUNNICKSNA: My name is George Munniksna. I am from Warren County, New Jersey. I have lived there for twenty-five years, but I am originally from Holland.

I have seen changed made. I like to talk to older people, and they always say, "Where are the good old days?" I don't know what is going to happen twenty years from now, but right now, we're in trouble. I like to see things just the right way -- the way they should be. I can see changes being made which should be happening.

I hope that this bill is vetoed. I am a farmer, and a farmer who harvests his crop is like a trapper. You have to harvest the crop. What is going to happen if we don't trap? There are going to be animals all over. There is no way that can be stopped.

I have heard on television that coyotes are eating children, and you know it. It happens all the time. Animals will eventually destroy us; I know this for sure. You have to control them, and the only way to to that is by trapping.

When the deer hunter goes out to hunt deer, there is more deer. They don't stop. They are going to keep reproducing and reproducing more. I can't understand why these people want this to happen. People make a livelihood from this. It is stuggling all the time.

Farmers in general are a lower class of people. We know that. We don't have the ability that you have, but some day these people will be begging the farmer for food, and we will say, "No."

Thank you.

AUDIENCE: (Applause)

SENATOR ZANE: Rosa Feldman, Student Action Corporation for Animals? (not present) Gary Himmel, Central Fur Trappers?

G A R Y H I M M E L: My name is Gary Himmel, and I am secretary/treasurer of the Central Jersey Fur Takers. I live in Ocean County.

I want to go on record as being opposed to Assembly Bill 3207. I have been a trapper for the past fifteen years, trapping both for sport and for profit. The money I make selling furs helps to defray the costs of my household bills.

My family assists me in the preparation of furs to be sold at the fur auctions. I have two sons who looking forward to trapping with the leghold trap when they get older. To deprive myself and my family of this American tradition would be a grave injustice.

There are many people in all walks of life who participate in trapping for various reasons. I have trapped many foxes that showed no discomfort in being in the trap. As a matter of fact, several have been sleeping as I approached the trap site.

Although the same areas have been trapped by me year after year, there has been no reduction in their numbers, thus proving that they are a renewable resource.

Thank you for your consideration in giving me the opportunity to express my views in opposing Bill A-3207.

SENATOR ZANE: Thank you.

AUDIENCE: (Applause)

SENATOR ZANE: Morray Cohen, Atlantic County SPCA? (not present) That is every speaker who contacted our office and asked to speak. Is there anyone else who would like to speak? Yes, sir? How many additional speakers are there?

T H O M A S B R O W N: Thank you, Senator Zane, for the opportunity to speak. My name is Thomas Brown, better known to the children -- young trappers -- as Uncle Tom.

For sixty-two of my seventy-three years, I have been a trapper. These men that came up here today have taken the words out of my mouth, especially about the corn that is destroyed by the coon.

What I would like to state now is how much the fur taking has meant to me over the years. I started to trap in 1921. During the 1920's, the furs I brought in helped lift the burden from my father who was sixty-eight years old when I started to trap. From 1921 to 1931, this money was turned over to my mother, along with thirty-six and one-half cents an hour that I earned while working in the sandhole.

During the depression -- my wife of fifty-one years, who is sitting in the audience -- the money that came from our furs put food on our table. During the 1940's, with the children going to school-- All three went to high school-- In the 1950's, the grandchildren came along, and then later, the great-grandchildren.

The money today is used for the grandchildren and the great-grandchildren. I sent \$500 yesterday to California -- fur money -- to help one grandson who is in college in Oakland, California. My oldest grandson, who I call my right arm, is in Florida at the university. I have given him money towards his education, and I will continue to do so as long as I have my leghold traps.

I have a granddaughter, sister to my right arm -- Valerie Baldwin -- who is in college in North Carolina. She is studying to be a teacher for the retarded.

Most of the things I would have said have already been said, but in 1977, I walked into the Millville Bank. My first great-granddaughter was four months old. She is almost seven years old now. I put \$1000 in her name from my fur money. Four years later, in 1981, her mother, my oldest granddaughter, was left with another little girl who was two years old. I took my 1980-1981 fur money and bought her a home -- a half of a double house.

I have to say this: In 1982, the children and the grandchildren didn't get the fur money, although they shared in it. It was my wife's and my fiftieth anniversary, and that money was spent at the Savoy Inn in Vineland, New Jersey. We had 120 guests there, and I still say that my wife was really the prettiest woman there.

I am talking as a 1940's trapper. I'm not talking for myself; I had my day. I really had my day. I'm seventy-three years old. I'm talking for these youngsters who are just starting out.

I skipped school too much in order to get an education. The outdoors was my classroom, and mother nature was my teacher. I had a good teacher, even though she is a cruel mistress.

I just hope that we can continue to hold on to our leghold traps. There is one thing, with your permission, that I would like to recite. It is the Trapper's Prayer:

"God grant that I may trap until my dying day, and when it comes to my last set, I then most humbly pray that when I take the Lord's bait and I am peacefully asleep, he judges me a number one and good enough to keep."

I would like to add a little humor to this grave situation. I pray to God that we keep our traps because I'm too old to shovel snow. Thank you.

SENATOR ZANE: Thank you, sir. After this gentleman, there is one more speaker. Is there anyone else who would like to speak? Two more? Okay.

CAVIT BUYUKMIHC I: That is a real tough to follow; however, I'll do my best.

SENATOR ZANE: Sir, I'm going to ask that you be brief.

MR. BUYUKMIHCI: Yes, sir. I'll be as brief as Uncle Tom was. My name is Cavit Buyukmihci, and I President of the New Jersey Congress for Animals.

When Assemblyman Herman testified, he ignored that a lot of people -- scientists, biologists -- came to the first hearing, and they opposed the leghold trap. They proved that there is no use for the leghold trap. You cannot control the animal population, diseases, and rabies. As soon as you start to kill the animals, you create a vacancy -- a vacuum -- and the animals start to multiply more than ever.

Also, Mr. Herman said that we live in Salem County, yet people who live way out in North Jersey come to speak about trapping. I happen to live in Atlantic County and my refuge is in Atlantic County and Gloucester County.

I would like to say that I was a trapper when I was young, and I know what I am talking about. Senator Zane, you asked Robert Itchmoney from Fish and Game if they would oppose this trap. How can he answer "yes," because Fish and Game personnel are paid by the trappers and hunters?

You are deceiving the public by putting your big hand in that trap. I happen to be scientist, and I know the pressure of the trap. Some animals' legs are smaller than your little finger. Not only that, but when an animal is caught, he is frantic. He tries to pull his leg out, and sometimes he tears his paw.

Another gentleman testified that it is a misnomer that the animal is caught by the paw. I assume he has never heard about the jump trap. Some animals are not as reflective as others.

I would like to enumerate why the New Jersey Congress for Animals opposes the steel-jaw leghold trap:

(1) Extremely cruelty to domestic and wild animals. The perception of animals has been ably explained by Dr. Somar in a copy of his statement, which I gave to Denise Drace. I hope that Senator Zane and the other Committee members read that. Animals, just like we, have the same sensors and they experience the same pain.

(2) The leghold trap is not selective. This is not a new thing. Animals such as owls, hawks, ducks, geese, cats, and dogs may be caught. A few months ago a turkey and a cat were caught, and both

of them had to have their legs amputated. A gentleman mentioned that whenever he sees a three-legged animal, the leg has been amputated at the shoulder. He doesn't know his medicine. Sure, when an animal is caught and gangrene sets in, they have to amputate to the next joint. If gangrene sets in at that joint, then they have to amputate to the next joint.

(3) Brutalizing effect on trappers, especially young people. Killing by stomping, clubbing, and strangling is inhumane, and people become callous to suffering.

Claims made by the opponents of the bill with regard to the economy -- the spreading of disease and habitat damage -- are grossly exaggerated. Trapping is done by a handful of persons -- about 4,500 in all of New Jersey. It is no longer a major source of income. In fact, Fish and Game did a survey. They sent 1,000 trappers a survey, and they asked what their profession was. None of them said, "My profession is trapping." If I were making a living by trapping, I would say so proudly.

This economy bit reminds of the slavery days. They said that if we got rid of slavery, this country would collapse. It never happened. Keep that in mind. We are only dealing with the leghold trap, not all trapping in New Jersey. There is no place for such a hideous device in our civilized society.

I would like you, Senator Zane, and Committee members to please read the literature I have sent you from Dr. Somar and the Atlanta Disease Center before you make up your minds. We would very much appreciate it if you would support this bill and get it out of your Committee. If you don't, we are going to get it out some other way.

Thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to speak.

AUDIENCE: (Applause)

SENATOR ZANE: Next?

W I L L I A M M c K I E: Senator Zane, my name is William McKie. I am from Pennsville, New Jersey.

I have no ax to grind with anybody. I am not a trapper, a fur buyer, a conservationist, or an environmentalist. I am a taxpayer from South Jersey, and this is the reason I am here.

Pennsville has a lot of meadows. Lower Alloways Creek doesn't have them all. A lot of trapping goes on in Pennsville. I've known since I was a boy that high school kids and college kids have supplemented and paid their way through college by trapping. I've known farmers all my life who have supplemented their incomes because of trapping. Because of farming nowadays, with the profit level going down, it is even more of a supplemental income.

I think the thing that aggravates me more than anything else regarding this whole situation is our home rule. The only time it seems that North Jersey wants anything from us is when they get some of our revenue from the nuclear plants in South Jersey, especially in Salem County. We can't even get the grass cut on Route 295. Things are better up in North Jersey because the population is there.

Now they want to take away our home rule as far as this leghold trap situation is concerned. If the eleven counties in North Jersey want to have leghold trap bans, fine, but let Salem County determine its own destiny. Let us in South Jersey send a clear message to the politicians and to all the people in North Jersey that we are here, we are to be heard, and we don't want this thing shoved down our throats. We are against it completely.

Thank you.

AUDIENCE: (Applause)

SENATOR ZANE: Harry Beal?

H A R R Y B E A L: My name is Harry Beal. I am Vice President of the Fur Farmer's Association. I am also a trapper and a fur buyer in the winter and a farmer in the summer. I am putting four children through college, all with the help of muskrat trapping.

A part of our society looks on trapping as a sport or recreation. Let me assure you, it is not. Trapping is a way of life and a full-time job. It is the way I have chosen to make my living and support my family.

On July 3, 1983, Ms. Susan Russell made a statement to the Philadelphia Inquirer that the average income of a trapper nationwide was only \$100.00. I would like to know her source of information. Would all of these trappers be gathered here today to fight against this injustice for \$100.00 a year? Would I be able to survive and

provide for my family on \$100.00 per year trapping income? Common sense evidently wasn't present when this statement was made. Ms. Russell also stated that we "go shovel snow" as an alternative to trapping. She surely doesn't know much about the South Jersey snowfall.

In the State of New Jersey, there are over 4,000 licensed trappers, and this does not include landowners who trap on their own land. The trapping industry contributes largely to this nation's economy -- industries such as boat building outboard motor sales and parts, the steel industry, gasoline companies, garment manufacturers, and the list goes on.

My livelihood depends upon my right to trap and my freedom of choice to decide which trap will work best for me in my area.

I want to personally thank Senator Zane for the time and support he has given our cause.

AUDIENCE: (Applause)

SENATOR ZANE: I believe we have one last speaker; am I correct, sir? Kindly give us your name and address, please -- or your town anyhow.

H E Z E K I A H C L A R K: Thank you, Senator Zane. My name is Hezekiah Clark. I live in the City of Salem, and I am a property owner here.

SENATOR ZANE: I called you awhile back, Mr. Clark.

MR. CLARK: I am sorry. I just want to speak about this proposed bill. It seems as if the proponents of this bill are putting the lower class of animals above the higher class of animals. It is a shame that there are so many trappers in this region who the proponents of this bill seem to want to put out of work. It is a shame, and I can't understand it. Why?

There was an elderly gentleman who just spoke about how well he did by helping his family -- sending them through school, and everything else. If the proponents of this bill that is before us now have their way, it will be a shame that there will be many other people who will not be able to go to school or even have an education.

I am 100% behind you in attacking this bill, and I hope you will be very successful in throwing it out.

I want to say one thing: I want to voice my resentment of the article in today's newspaper. Thank you.

AUDIENCE: (Applause)

SENATOR ZANE: I'll ask one more time. Are there any other speakers? Hearing none, that will conclude the hearing. Transcripts from this hearing will be prepared, and they will be distributed ultimately to each member of the Legislature.

Do you have any idea how long it will take before those transcripts are ready?

HEARING REPORTER: Do you want priority transcription?

SENATOR ZANE: Priority would mean what period of time?

HEARING REPORTER: It could be started tomorrow.

SENATOR ZANE: I don't know that a priority is that essential. The Committee itself will meet. There will be no further public hearings on this bill; this was it. The Committee itself will meet probably later this month, and we will call for a consideration of the bill, whether or not there is any support to move the bill.

I might advise you at this point that Senator Orechio, who is the sponsor of the other bill that is identical to this, -- it is in Senator Dalton's Committee-- Senator Orechio is a member of the Agriculture Committee, as well as being the Senate President, and he will most likely ask for a vote by the Committee to release the bill. He has already done that.

There would not have been a public hearing, in all probability, if he had not pressed and said he was out to get one of the bills released. Very frankly, anyone is entitled to get a bill released, but I did not appreciate the methods he had attempted to use to get the bill released. So, we decided to hold the public hearing.

I'm not going to speak for the other members. Senator Dumont -- I think, if you listened closely, you could sense his position on the bill. We'll do something with the bill one way or another probably within the next thirty days -- the next time the Agriculture Committee meets when we're in session. That is it.

I have nothing to do with the bill that is in the other Committee, nor do I have any control over it. Senator Dalton does. He is from South Jersey, and he also understands the problems. I would

suggest that those of you with positions in either direction contact Senator Dalton and express your views to him as to whether or not you would like to see the bill released and brought to the floor for a Senate vote.

That concludes the public hearing.

(Hearing concluded)



Index #1
DISEASE CONTROL

Skunk rabies surveillance in Illinois

Paul C. Bartlett, DVM, MPH, and Russell J. Martin, DVM, MPH

SUMMARY

Surveillance data indicated that an increased incidence of skunk rabies in Illinois during 1979-1980 was not attributable to increased reporting or submission of skunks to the state laboratories for rabies examination. Available road-kill data suggested that the skunk population increased prior to the increase in skunk rabies incidence. An increased skunk population was hypothesized to have caused the increased incidence by facilitating transmission of the virus through increased skunk density. Analysis of the temporal distribution of skunk rabies revealed a bimodal seasonal cycle, with peak occurrence in the spring and fall, and the possible beginning of a secular cycle, with peak incidence every 6 to 8 years.

MOST DISEASE SURVEILLANCE in the United States depends on voluntary reporting, frequently leading to underreporting and a poor estimate of the annual incidence of disease. However, surveillance data frequently prove effective in detecting relative trends in disease occurrence. Though the occurrence of animal rabies has been measured by trapping surveys¹ and road-kill surveys,² most rabies surveillance data in the United States depend on the submission of suspected rabid animals to diagnostic laboratories. Data collected in this manner can be subject to submission bias. However, compilation of reported rabid animals from diagnostic laboratories is frequently the only surveillance data available, and if interpreted carefully, can indicate important epidemiologic trends. In this regard, an analysis of submissions to the Illinois rabies laboratories was undertaken to determine the value of such data in characterizing the epidemiology of rabies in Illinois skunks.

Methods

Since the 1940s, the Illinois Department of Public Health has monitored the number of rabid animals reported in the state. After 1962, cases were not tabulated unless they had been confirmed rabid by examination of smears of brain tissue with the fluorescent rabies antibody (FRA) technique at 1 of the state's 6 public health or agriculture laboratories. These laboratories have a policy to examine only those skunks that have been in contact with man or domestic animals.

In 1975, the Illinois Department of Conservation began counting skunks killed by traffic (road-kills) as a means of estimating the state's skunk population.³ While traveling in their respective regions of the state, designated department employees recorded all dead skunks observed along the road with the aid of counters mounted in their cars. A road-kill index was calculated from the number of dead skunks observed, divided by the number of miles of road surveyed.

To evaluate the reliability of the road-kill index to estimate the skunk population, it was necessary to determine whether rabies infection, rather than skunk population, was a major determinant of the road-kill index. If rabid skunks were more likely to be killed on the highway than non-rabid skunks, a change in the number of skunks killed by traffic could reflect a change in the annual rabies incidence rather than a change in skunk population. In this regard, employees of the Illinois Department of Conservation participating in the skunk road-kill survey were asked to collect the heads of the first 4 skunks encountered in February and March 1981, and to submit them to the Illinois Department of Public Health Laboratory in Springfield for FRA examination.

Each of the 102 counties of Illinois appoints a veterinarian to serve as administrator of the county's animal control program. Duties of this position include forwarding submitted animal specimens to the laboratory for rabies examination. In January 1981, the animal control administrators from the 12 counties that submitted the most rabid skunks in 1980 were questioned regarding their criteria for submission of skunks to the rabies laboratories. The administrators from these 12 counties forwarded 312 rabid skunks to the laboratory in 1980, accounting for 70% of the state's rabid skunks reported during that year.

From the Field Services Division, Centers for Disease Control, Atlanta, GA 30333 (Bartlett) and the Illinois Department of Public Health, 535 W Jefferson St, Springfield, IL 62761 (Martin). Dr. Bartlett's present address is the College of Veterinary Medicine, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI 48824.

The authors thank the employees of Illinois Departments of Public Health, Agriculture, and Conservation.

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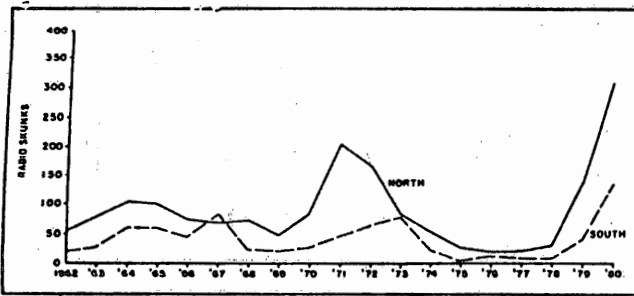


Fig 1—Number of laboratory-confirmed rabid skunks in northern and southern Illinois from 1962-1980.

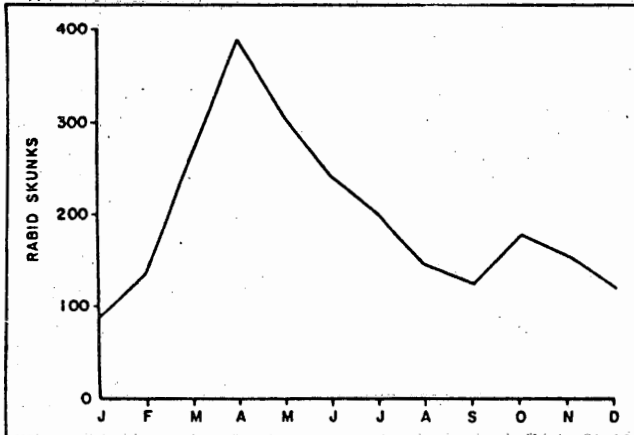


Fig 2—Mean number of laboratory-confirmed rabid skunks, by month, in Illinois from 1964-1980.

Results

Since 1957, more rabid skunks than rabid animals of any other species have been reported in Illinois. In 1980, Illinois reported 443 rabid skunks, representing a 2½-fold increase over 1979 and a 10-fold increase over 1978 (Fig 1). Skunks accounted for 79% of reported animal rabies in 1979 and 84% of reported animal rabies in 1980. Examination of seasonal occurrence (Fig 2) indicates a bimodal distribution, with peak activity in the spring and a smaller peak in the fall. Figure 3 shows the percentage of examined specimens that were FRA-positive and the number of laboratory-confirmed rabid

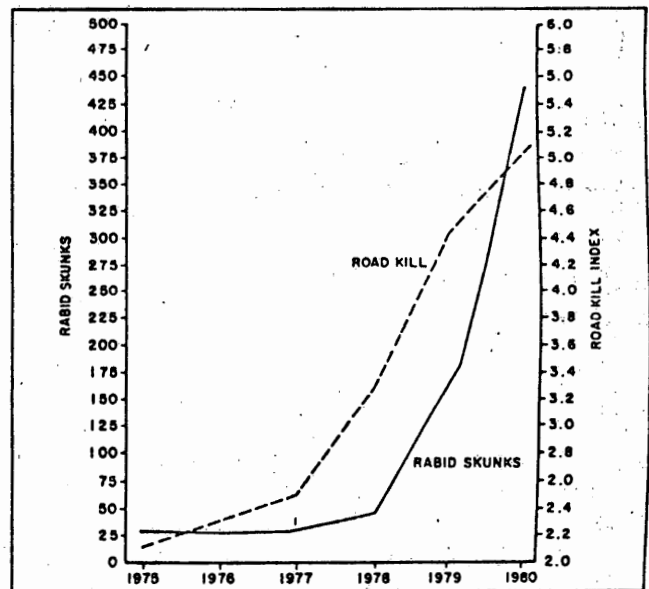


Fig 4—Number of rabid skunks and road-kill index in Illinois from 1975-1980. (Source for data: Hubert GF Jr. *Striped Skunk Road-Kill Survey*, P-R Project Report W-49-R-27, Study 11, Job 1: Springfield, Illinois Department of Conservation, 1980.)

skunks by year. The percentage of FRA-positive skunks usually was higher in years when the number of rabid skunks was highest, and lower in years when there was a low annual incidence of skunk rabies. Figure 4 depicts the skunk road-kill index from 1975 to 1980 and the number of confirmed rabid skunks during these same years. All of 11 road-killed skunks examined in February and March 1981 were found to be FRA-negative. Twenty additional road-killed skunk heads could not be examined reliably because the brains were damaged badly. The consensus of the surveyed animal administrators was that their criteria for submission of skunks for rabies examination remained constant from 1978 to 1980. They estimated that slightly less than 90% of submitted skunks were captured or shot by private citizens.

Discussion

A cyclic trend in reported skunk rabies was

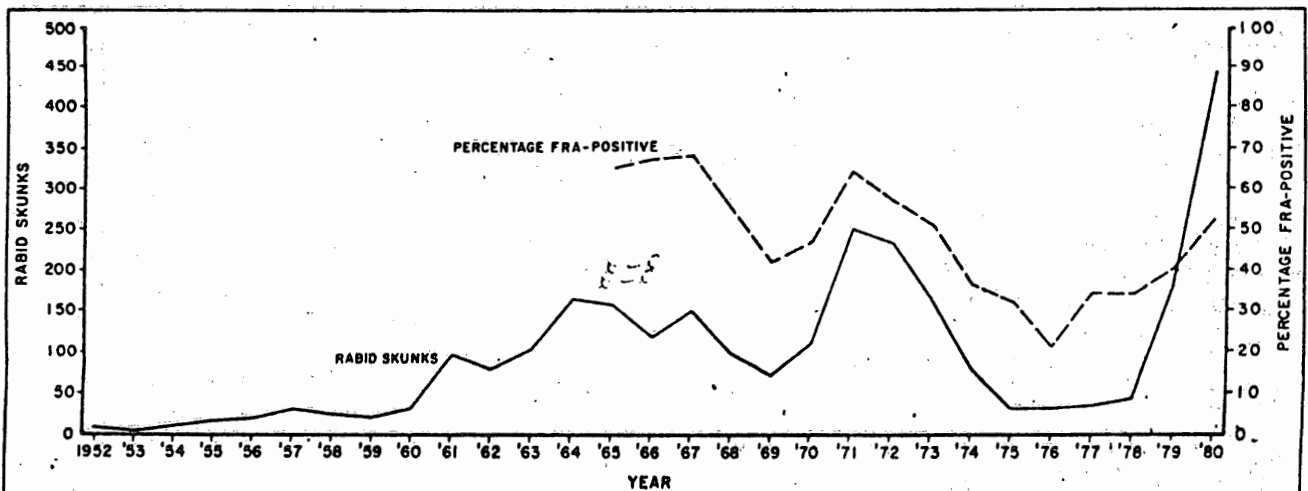


Fig 3—Reported skunk rabies and percentage of examined skunks which were FRA-positive, in Illinois from 1952-1980.

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observed, with a peak occurring every 6 to 8 years (Fig 1). Peaks in northern Illinois appear to have preceded peaks in southern Illinois by 1 to 2 years. The cyclic nature of skunk rabies also had been observed in Tennessee, where years of peak skunk rabies were reported in 1965, 1972, and 1980.³

The monthly incidence of skunk rabies indicates a bimodal distribution, with peaks in the spring and fall (Fig 2). Parker also reported a bimodal distribution of reported skunk rabies and suggested that seasonal cycles may be caused by patterns of skunk behavior.⁴

Normal, healthy skunks usually are nocturnal and have infrequent contact with human beings. Because unprovoked contact with man is considered abnormal skunk behavior and a common clinical sign of rabies, Illinois' criteria for submission of skunks for rabies examination should constitute a good screening test for skunk rabies. Therefore, an increase in the percentage of FRA-positive skunks probably reflects an increase in the percentage of skunks that have contacted human beings or domestic animals because of rabies infection, as opposed to other reasons, eg distemper, starvation, and injury.

Because skunks with normal behavior are less likely to be rabid than skunks meeting the criteria for laboratory submission, the percentage of FRA-positive skunks would be expected to decrease under most conditions of improved surveillance. However, the percentage of FRA-positive skunks among all skunks submitted in 1978 (34%) was less than that in 1979 (39%) and much less than that in 1980 (52%), suggesting that the recent increase in reported skunk rabies reflects a real increase in rabies and not merely an increase in surveillance efforts. Other years of high reported annual incidence of skunk rabies (1964, 1965, 1971, and 1972) also had a relatively high percentage of FRA-positive skunks (Fig 3). Because approximately 90% of all submitted skunks were shot or captured by private citizens, it is not reasonable to believe that the percentage of FRA-positive skunks increased during periods of increased occurrence of skunk rabies because animal control offices were overworked and able only to capture the most highly suspect animals.

The results of the rabies examination of the 1980 road-killed skunks were less than conclusive because of the small number of skunks submitted and the high proportion of specimens that could not be examined. The data suggest that most road-killed skunks were on the highway for reasons other than abnormal behavior attributable to rabies encephalitis, and indicate that current rabies infection probably was not a major cause of the increase in road-kills between 1978 and 1980. Hubert² indicates that the increase in the road-kill index probably reflects an increase in the skunk population in 1978-1980 and notes that the association between skunk road-kills and population is supported by Case⁶ and Verts⁶ (Fig 4). The increase in the road-kill index precedes the increase in reported skunk rabies by 1 or 2 years. An increase in the 1980 Illinois skunk population is also indicated by the 1980 increase in the harvest of

skunk pelts and average number of pelts per trapper in spite of a stable pelt price.²

An increased population of skunks could have increased the annual incidence of skunk rabies by facilitating transmission of the virus due to increased skunk density and crowding. When the population and density of skunks increase, there should be more intraspecies contact facilitating rabies virus transmission, ie, more bites and fights. Other investigators (Schoening⁷ and Lantz⁸) have observed that rabies, like most contagious diseases, is density-dependent.

This explanation is consistent with the observed surveillance data demonstrating increased submission of skunks to the laboratory for FRA-examination, increased number of FRA-positive results, and increased percentage of submitted skunks found to be FRA-positive. Several alternative explanations for the 1979-1980 increase in skunk rabies are not as compatible with the observed data: (1) Periodic cycles of rabies resulting from patterns of herd immunity might have occurred, but would not be contingent on the increase in skunk population which was observed to coincide with the increase in reported skunk rabies. (2) Neither the ecologic niche nor the life style of skunks might have changed between 1978 and 1980 to a degree sufficient to account for the dramatic increase in skunk rabies observed during these years. (3) Changes in the rabies virus itself might have created an epidemic through increased virulence, pathogenicity, or infectivity; however, field or laboratory evidence has not indicated that the 1979-1980 wild rabies virus is substantially different from the wild rabies virus of previous years. (4) An increase in the annual incidence with a stable skunk population might be an alternative explanation for the observed data; however, this theory would not explain the increase in skunk population suggested by the road-kill survey.

An increase in the population of skunks at risk without a change in the rate of rabies infection should not have affected a change in the percentage of FRA-positive skunks. However, the percentage of FRA-positive skunks increased between 1978 and 1980. Therefore, the annual incidence (new cases of skunk rabies per population unit) must have increased between 1978 and 1980.

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S. DONELSON

Township Office conducted a survey to all veterinarians, who could be reached in the South Jersey area, namely, Salem, Cumberland, Atlantic, Gloucester, Cape May and Burlington Counties to determine whether ^{or} not the veterinarians had treated any animals in the past year who may have been caught in leghold steel traps. The results are as follows:

SALEM COUNTY

Pilesgrove Animal Hospital Woodstown, NJ	No
Salem Veterinarian Hospital Salem, NJ	No
Gemberling Animal Hospital Woodstown, NJ	No

CUMBERLAND COUNTY

Blue Cross Animal Hospital Vineland, NJ	No
Cumberland Veterinary Hospital Vineland, NJ	No
Hopewell Veterinary Hospital Hopewell, NJ	No
A. Kazam, DVM Vineland, NJ	No
Animal Hospital of Millville Millville, NJ	No
Wilwynn Animal Hospital Bridgeton, NJ	No
Arne Zislin Vineland, NJ	No
V. Sima Vineland, NJ	No
James Rosenthal Vineland, NJ	No
East Oak Veterinary Hospital Vineland, NJ	Yes (1)
R.F. Goldsboro Millville, NJ	No

ATLANTIC COUNTY

Animal Emergency Clinic Somerdale, NJ	No
Botwinick - Margate Animal Hospital Margate, NJ	No
Somers Point Veterinary Hospital Somers Point, NJ	No
Hammonton Veterinary Hospital Hammonton, NJ	Yes (1)
Absecon Veterinary Hospital Absecon, NJ	No
Absegami Veterinary Hospital McKee City, NJ	No
Bayview Animal Hospital Atlantic City	Yes (1)
Dale Bodman Fork River, NJ	No
A.P.A. Hillerson Ventnor City, NJ	No
Island Animal Clinic Brigitine	No
Vetco Tabernacle, NJ	No
Linwood Animal Hospital Linwood	No

GLOUCESTER COUNTY

Forrest Gerry Mullica Hill, NJ	No
Hillcrest Veterinary Hospital Pitman, NJ	No
Bert Allen Haddon Heights	No
P. Berg Williamstown, NJ	No
Black Horse Pike Animal Hospital Turnersville, NJ	No

GLOUCESTER COUNTY (Continued)

Blackwood Animal Hospital
Blackwood, NJ

No

Green Fields Veterinary
Mantua, NJ

Yes (2)

Greentree Veterinary
Turnersville, NJ

No

Cyril Boynes
Clayton, NJ

No

CAPE MAY COUNTY

Belloff Animal Hospital
Rio Grande, NJ

No

Cape Veterinary Hospital
Cape May Court House

No

Shore Veterinary
Seaville, NJ

Yes (1)

BURLINGTON COUNTY

Bryan Animal Hospital
Mt. Holly

No

Burl-Moor-Driben Animal Hospital
Moorestown, NJ

No

Wm. Fedorko
Burlington, NJ

No

Fittipaldi
Collingswood

No

Edward Frame
Medford, NJ

Yes (1)

Ellen Friedman
Chesterfield, NJ

No

Jerome Glickstein
Medford, NJ

No

BURLINGTON COUNTY (Continued)

Marne Veterinary Clinic Mt. Holly, NJ	No
Marlton Animal Hospital Marlton, NJ	Yes (1)
Ed Sleeper Mount Laurel, NJ	No
Wood Veterinary Clinic Wrightstown, NJ	No
Central Veterinary Hospital Columbus, NJ	No

No

OCEAN COUNTY

Southern Ocean Animal Hospital Tuckerton	No
Tuckerton Veterinary Clinic Tuckerton, NJ	No

CAMDEN COUNTY

Church Road Animal Cherry Hill, NJ	No
Ernest Vaughn Pennsauken, NJ	No
Cherry Hill Animal Hospital Cherry Hill	No
Berlin Park Animal Hospital Camden, NJ	No
Circle Animal Hospital Collingswood, NJ	No

THOSE WHO DID HAVE ANIMALS CAUGHT WERE AS FOLLOWS

Bayview Animal Hospital, Atlantic City - 1 dog in the fall

East Oak Veterinary Hospital, Vineland - 1 dog (Not sure of season)

Green Fields Veterinary, Mantua - usually have a couple a year

Hammonton Veterinary Hospital, Hammonton - 1 cat in August

Edward Frame, Veterinarian, Medford - 1 dog in winter

Shore Veterinarians - 1 animal

Marlton Animal Hospital, Marlton - 1 cat in winter

Total Contacts 57

Total Incidents 7

The AWA Association, inc.
Animal Welfare

CHARLES
CLAUSING

RED LION SHELTER
Route 206
Vincentown, N.J. 08088
Phone: 859-2279

VOORHEES SHELTER AND ANIMAL BIRTH CONTROL
Marlton-Gibbsboro Rd.
Voorhees Township, N.J.
Phone: 424-2288

CLINIC
Box 113, Marlton, N.J. 08053
Phone: 424-2258

MAILING ADDRESS:
AWA, BOX #05
LINDENWOLD, NJ 08021

Whereas:

The steel jaw leghold trap is a cruel and unselective device for capturing animals, and

Whereas:

The steel jaw leghold trap is recognized as being inhumane and is banned in many Countries, States and in some Counties in New Jersey, and

Whereas:

There are alternatives to the steel jaw leghold trap available and now being used in New Jersey,

Therefore be it resolved:

That The Animal Welfare Association strongly supports Bill A-3207 and any similar legislation which will prohibit the use of the steel jaw leghold trap throughout New Jersey.

September 8, 1983
The AWA Board of Directors

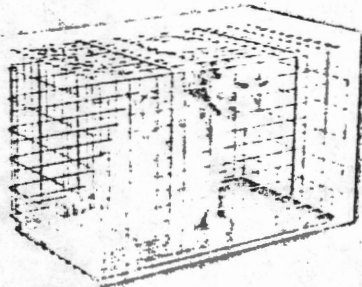
DIRECTORS: Charles I. Clausing, President, Medford; Raymond N. Schweizer, Vice President, Cherry Hill; Miss Margaret Blanck, Secretary, Deptford; Mrs. Eileen K. Krusch, Treasurer, Blackwood; Mrs. Claire Baker, Toms River; Miss Annette Blaxland, Pennsauken; Mrs. Bonnie Cate, Pennsauken; Nial P. Gardner, Jr., Edgewater Park; Mrs. Virginia Leonard, Burlington; William Millhollen, Philadelphia; Miss Carol Roman, Maple Shade; Marvin Rothman, V.M.D., Cherry Hill; Miss Jean Steever, Haddon Heights; Richard Stefanski, Jr., Haddonfield; William Seybold, Camden; Robert Templeton, Bordentown; James B. Woodford, Medford; General Counsel, Lee B. Laskin, Cherry Hill.

9x

CATRY LISS

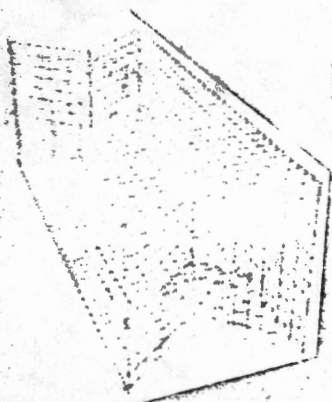
DOG LIVE TRAP

No. 110, Attention, Dog Wardens: 20"x26"x60" single door, rigid, dog live trap. Wardens all over the country are finding this their most useful piece of equipment.



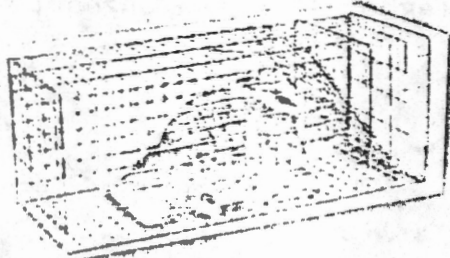
CARRIER

No. 204, Top opening wire carrier, size 12"x18"x18"



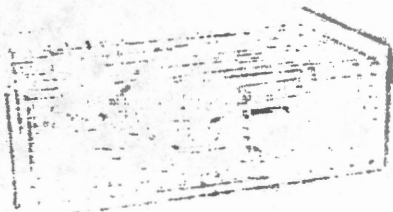
FISH TRAP

No. 301, 12"x12"x36" Double door folding live trap for fish. Doors at front and rear. Size 12"x12"x36"



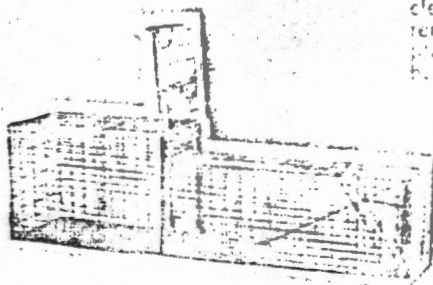
CAT OR RABBIT

No. 100, Single door, rigid, cat or rabbit trap. Size 12"x12"x20"



TURTLE LIVE TRAP

No. 400, 12"x9"x21" Single Door live trap for turtles. Metal construction. Size 12"x9"x21"



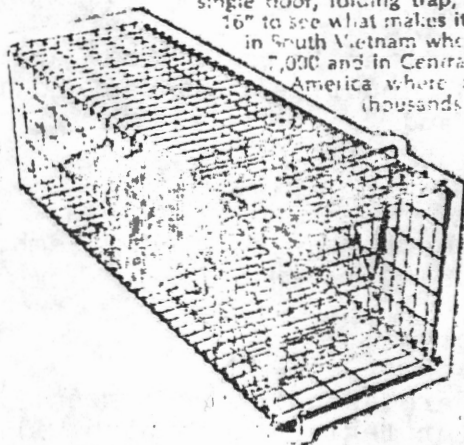
DOG LIVE TRAP

No. 107, Tomahawk Live Trap for cat or rabbit. Size 12"x12"x20"



RACCOONS OR FISHERS

No. 108, Mr. Badger tries out our rigid, single door trap for raccoons or fishers. Size 10"x12"x32"



No. 201, Mr. Chipmunk inspects the single door, folding trap, size 5"x5"x16" to see what makes it so popular in South Vietnam where there are 7,000 and in Central and South America where many more thousands have been shipped.

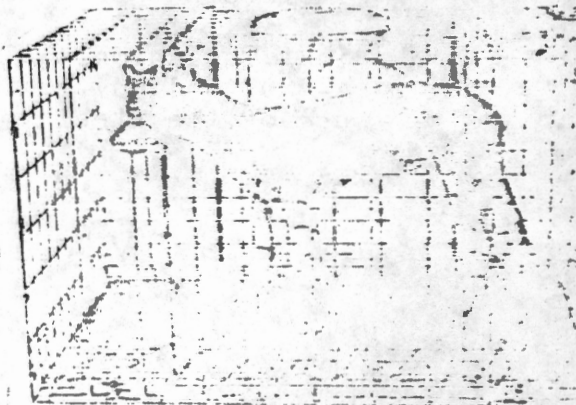
CAT OR RABBIT

No. 107, Tomahawk Live Trap for cat or rabbit. Size 12"x12"x20"



BARE ALL ALUM BEAVER LIVE TRAP

No. 601, Bare All Aluminum Beaver Live Trap with all aluminum construction. Outstanding live traps even for the beaver may have a trap up to 14" diameter with it. No parts to assemble. Can be set up in a few seconds. It will never fail if properly set. 20"x38" closed and 20"x38" open. Trap size 20"x38"x20"



CARRIER

No. 204, Top opening wire carrier, size 12"x18"x18". Carrier is lightweight, strong, and easy to clean. Note protector panel under the handle and removable lipped pan in bottom. Set by roll back. This carrier is being our Chipmunk.



JAN'S CATCHER

Jan's catcher is a completely new type of fox leg-snare. Many years of experiment and research are behind the construction, which is patented in 5 countries. The research work has been led by docent Jan Englund at the University of Stockholm.

In the hunting year of 1975-76, 111 foxes were caught by 22 hunts-men. Each hunt-man had 5 fox leg-snares. Parts from the caught foxes were sent to docent Englund for an examination, to see if any injuries had occurred. The frequency of injuries turned out to be very low.

Docent Englund's conclusion is that this method of hunting is the most humane existing in fox-hunting.

Jan's catcher is also used for research purposes, for example by the Universities of Lund and Uppsala, and by the National Nature Saving research station at Grimsö.

Another essential advantage with Jan's catcher, besides it being effective and lenient, is that it does not need any special treatment. After each capture, you just rinse it in hot water.

Naturally, it is very important that the fox leg-snare is used in a proper way. Knowledge of the fox's behaviour is necessary.

The fox wanders each night through its territory in search of food. It always takes the same way and, mainly, also the same track. Each autumn you start putting out lure in a suitable place. This is repeated during 3 months. It is important to dig down the lure a bit, to make the smell go into the ground. When the fox leg-snare is to be put out, you take skis and go round the lure-place to look for the fox's entrances and exits. Do not go closer than 100 metres from the lure-place. When you come to a track, you take off the skis and take a big step away from the skiing track. The fox leg-snare is adapted and put in the third or fourth trackmark (counted from the skiing track). Of course, the chances of a capture are improved if you put fox leg-snares at all entrances and exits.

How you, technically, use and put out the fox leg-snare is shown in the description on the next page.

Jan's Catcher är en helt ny typ av rävfångare. Många års experiment och forskning ligger bakom konstruktionen som är patenterad i 5 länder. Forskningsarbetet har letts av docent Jan Englund vid Stockholms Universitet.

Jaktåret 1975-76 fångades 111 rävar av 22 st fångstmän. Varje fångstman hade 5 st rävfångare. Delar från de fångade rävarna skickades till docent Englund för undersökning om eventuella skador hade uppstått. Skadefrekvensen visade sig vara mycket låg. Docent Englunds slutsats är att den här jaktmetoden är den mest humana som förekommer på räv.

Förutom till jakt används också Jan's Catcher för forskningsändamål. T.ex. av Lunds Universitet, Uppsala Universitet och av Statens Naturvårdsverks forskningsstation på Grimsö.

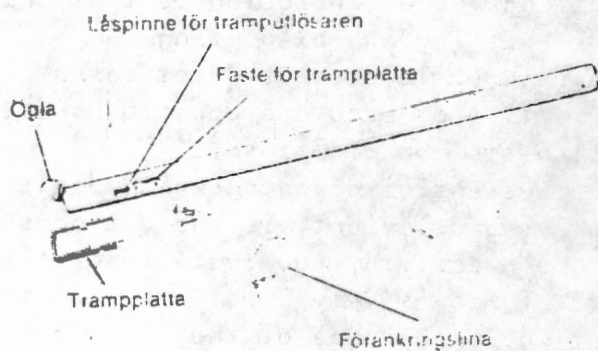
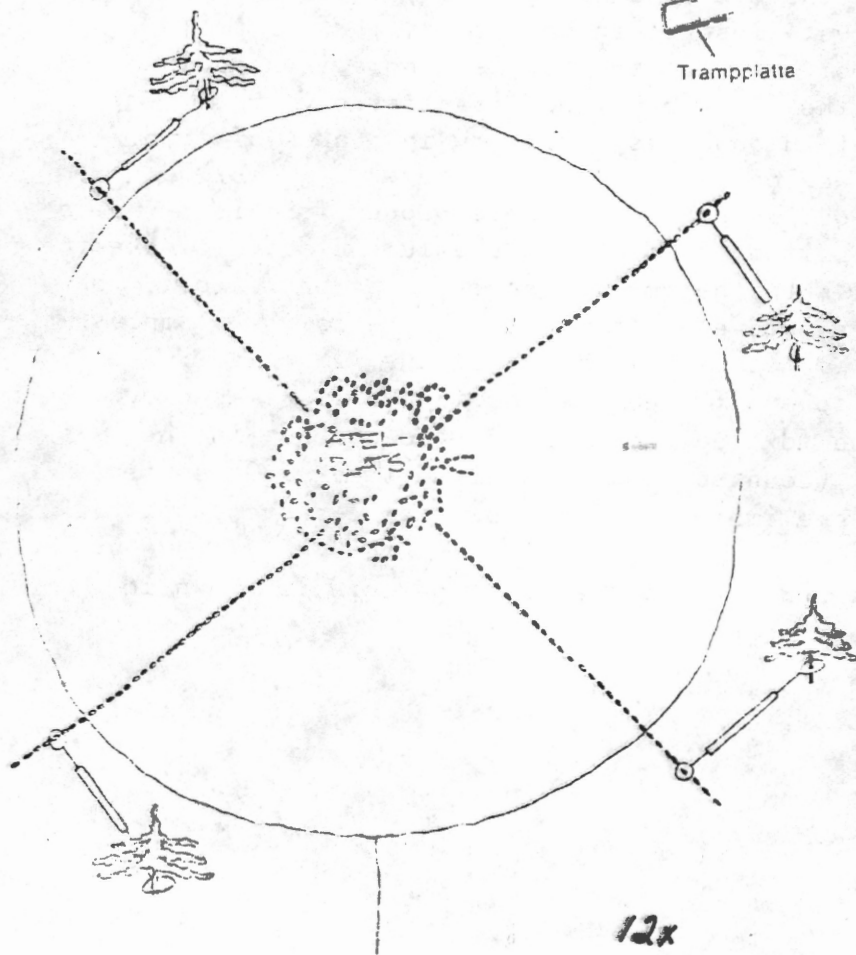
En annan väsentlig fördel med Jan's Catcher, förutom att den är effektiv och skonsam, är att den inte behöver behandlas. Efter varje fångst spolar man bara av den med varmt vatten.

Det är naturligtvis mycket viktigt att rävfångaren används på ett riktigt sätt. Kännedom om rävens beteende är därför nödvändig.

Räven vandrar varje kväll igenom sitt revir i jakt efter föda. Den går alltid samma vägar och, i stort sett, dessutom i samma spår.

Tidigt på hösten börjar man att lägga ut åtel på en lämplig plats. Detta upprepas under ca 3 månader. Det är viktigt att åteln grävs ner lite så att marlen blir invitrtrad. När rävfångaren skall läggas ut tar man skidorna och åker runt åtelplatsen för att söka efter rävens in- och utgångar. Åk då inte närmare än 100 meter från åtelplatsen. När man kommer till ett spår, kopplar man loss skidorna och tar ett rejält steg från skidspåret. Rävfångaren apteras och läggs ut i tredje eller fjärde spårstämpeln från skidspåret räknat. Fångstchanserna ökar naturligtvis om man lägger rävfångare på alla in- och utgångar.

Hur man rent tekniskt hanterar och lägger ut rävfångaren framgår av beskrivningen på omstående sida.



A Humane Alternative To The Steel-jawed Wildlife Trap

Following 10 years of development, a patent has been obtained for an effective wildlife trap designed to catch and hold animals without causing them physical harm. The trap represents a practical alternative to the steel-jawed trap, which has two significant disadvantages, (1) it causes pain and injury, a topic of growing debate in professional circles, and (2) it can debilitate, and render useless, animals trapped for research purposes.

The trap we have developed is tradenamed 'Ezyonem' (phonetic for "easy-on-em"). It consists of a neoprene coated loop, the ends of which are clamped inside a telescoping barrel. When sprung, the barrel sections move outward, closing the loop around the animal's limb. The cable loop forms only a 270-degree circle around the limb. This design feature allows a continuous flow of blood so that "freeze-offs" do not occur. The loop's controlled shape also keeps the animal's leg from coming in contact with the trap so that no metal touches or abrades the limb. A 1,000 lb. test cable is used, making the 'Ezyonem' trap effective for all but the largest carnivores.

When the trap is sprung, the telescoping barrel closes the cable loop without changing the position of the animal's foot. This is a necessary feature for successfully catching light-footed animals such as the fox, coyote, or raccoon. As the barrel moves forward, the cable loop remains between it and the animal's leg, preventing direct contact when the trap is sprung. As a result, no pain occurs at the moment the animal is caught. The trap can be sprung on a person's finger, for example, without causing discomfort.

Because the 'Ezyonem' trap holds at near-zero pressure, animals experience no pain or trauma when restrained. Studies conducted by the author have shown that the limb of a fur-bearing animal can make more than 1,000 revolutions in the cable loop without causing the skin to break. When trapped, animals were typically observed to remain calm and did not bite the limb that was held. In contrast, a No. 2 steel-jawed trap was shown to break the skin of a fox or bobcat with as few as six turns of the animal's limb. Animals caught in a steel-jawed trap generally struggle, sometimes breaking their teeth or looping the anchoring chain around a leg and breaking it.

Setting the 'Ezyonem' trap requires 5 to 10 minutes for an average trapper using a dirt-hole set. When set, the barrel measures a compact 1 and 1/8 inches in diameter and 4 and 1/2 inches in length (sprung, it projects to 12 inches). The trap is staked into position adjacent to a bait hole.

A recent clinical test of the trap illustrated its advantages. Dr. John Mulder, a veterinarian on the faculty at the University of Kansas, used the 'Ezyonem' trap and conventional steel-jawed traps to catch coyotes for a

wildlife study. Of the coyotes caught with steel-jawed traps, 50% had broken legs and were useless for his study. All the coyotes caught with 'Ezyonem' traps were unharmed and without skin abrasions on the trapped limb.

The 'Ezyonem' trap is relatively simple in design, and actually contains fewer parts than most steel-jawed traps. Prototype models had barrels of either polycarbon or steel, both of which weighed less than half as much as a No. 2 steel-jawed trap. The polycarbon model has the advantage of requiring no treatment or preparation prior to or following use. Boiling or waxing is unnecessary, and the trap is ready to use after being rinsed with water. Repairs on the 'Ezyonem' are generally easy to perform in the field or at a workbench. The trap is not commercially available at this time, although licensing discussions with existing manufacturers are in process.

[54] HUMANE ANIMAL TRAP

[76] Inventor: Elmer T. Davies, Duane Rd., St. Regis Falls, N.Y. 12980

[21] Appl. No.: 9,492

[22] Filed: Feb. 5, 1979

[51] Int. Cl. A01M 23/34

[52] U.S. Cl. 43/87

[58] Field of Search 43/85, 86, 87

[56] References Cited

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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

23553	of 1908	United Kingdom	43/87
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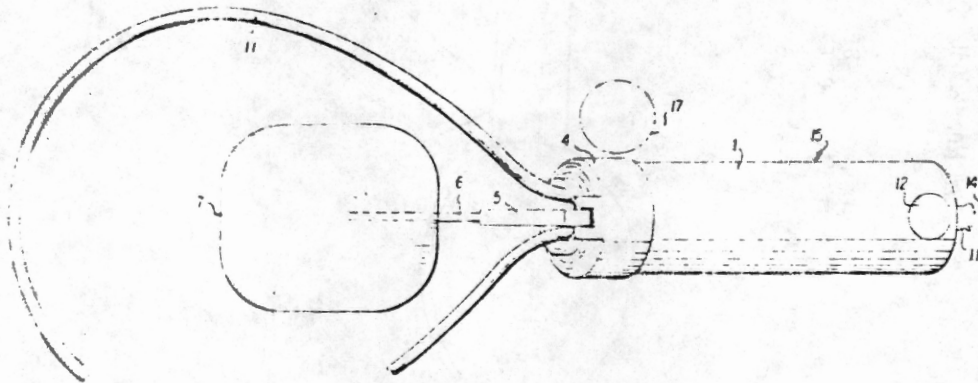
Primary Examiner—Harold D. Whitehead

Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Sherman & Shalloway

[57] ABSTRACT

A humane animal trap having a snare which is closed in position. The snare is a formed loop having ends which pass through a hollow telescoping system. The telescoping means is comprised of a main barrel connected to the loop, a slave barrel within the main barrel, and a working barrel within the slave barrel. The barrels are biased in an extended position by a spring which is connected between the main barrel and working barrel. A trigger prevents extension of the barrels and is selectively held in position by a trip. The trip is comprised of a trip sear which engages the trigger and a trip pan which forms an acute angle, preferably 30°, with the axis of the barrels. When the trap is arranged for use, the trip pan is located within the loop and an animal entering the loop and contacting the trip pan causes the trip pan and trip sear to move and release the trigger. This permits the spring to extend the barrels thereby enclosing a greater portion of the loop within the barrels and causing the loop to close around the animal forming a 270° loop.

3 Claims, 4 Drawing Figures



NOVAK FOOT SNARE

DEVELOPED BY THE ONTARIO MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DISTRIBUTED AND MANUFACTURED UNDER LICENCE FROM THE
ONTARIO GOVERNMENT

PATENT CANADA, U.S.A. **PAT No. 4288404** OTHER PATENTS PENDING

MANUFACTURED UNDER CONTRACT BY

ROBERT DICKSON MECHANICAL DEVELOPMENTS LIMITED
35 DAIRY LANE HUNTSVILLE ONTARIO CANADA POA 1K0

TELEPHONE (705) 789-7979 789-9566

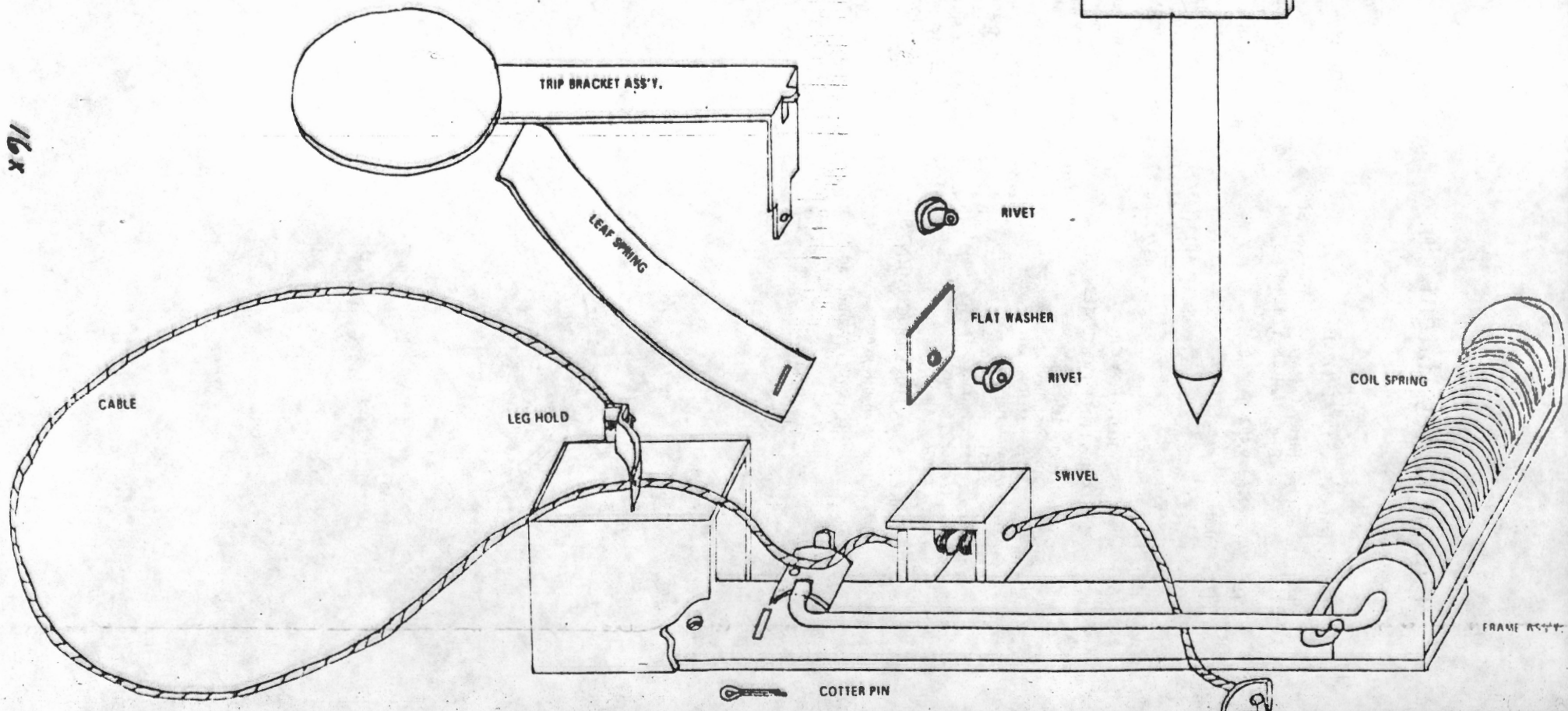
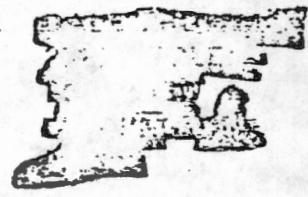


Exhibit 1

ALDRICH SPRING ACTIVATED ANIMAL SNARE

ALTON CHITTISTER
P. O. BOX 244
CLALLAM BAY
WASHINGTON
98326

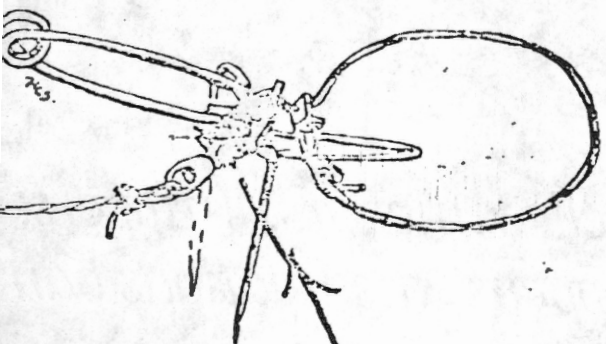


PH 206 963 2386

PARTICULARLY WELL ADAPTED FOR USE IN SETTLED AREAS
HUMANS, PETS AND LIVESTOCK CAN BE SET FREE WITH NO INJURIES

EXTREMELY USEFUL FOR ANIMALS TO BE CAUGHT AND
HELD FOR 'BIOLOGICAL' STUDIES, PEST CONTROL OR ZOO SPECIMENS

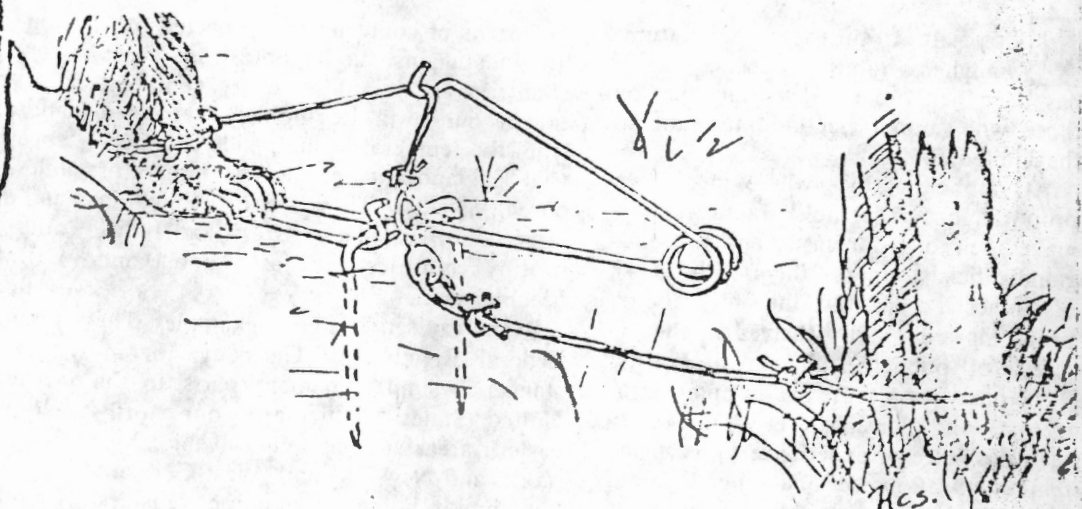
Safe Humane Snare-Type Trap for Animals



The ALDRICH SPRING ACTIVATED ANIMAL SNARE is comprised of a wire rope snare and spring device equipped with trigger for throwing loop of snare upward around leg of the animal. Spring falls free as animal is caught. Humane protective strap maybe employed to contact near side of animal's foot.

ALDRICH SPRING ACTIVATED ANIMAL SNARE SETTING

Press spring arm to set position. Press spikes fully into ground so trigger arm remains in horizontal position at ground level. Form a slight depression under trigger to allow downward movement for release. Engage ~~spring~~ eye with trigger hook. Lay wire in U-bend to form loop over trigger. Place forked stick to hold far side of loop slightly above ground to allow toes to slip under. Cover wire and springs lightly with leaves or moss.





Photographs by Dick Randall

by Bill Clark

*Reports from around the world belie American trappers;
here is what really happens when nations ban*

Leg-hold Trapping

ECONOMIC CATAclysm, agricultural mayhem, rabies epidemics: Each has been held up as a warning flag by those who support leg-hold trapping in the United States.

At public hearings where there is a proposal to ban leg-hold traps, trappers make their dire forecasts, and fish-and-game officials support them with stacks of studies. Predictably, the anti-trapping proposals are usually shelved in the interests of 'public health' and prosperity.

To many people, the pro-trapping arguments sound plausible. Yet we need only seek the voice of experience to learn the real implications of banning leg-hold traps. And there are many such voices of experience.

Dozens of countries have enacted prohibitions against the leg-hold trap. These countries are found on every continent except our own. Leg-holds are banned from the temperate countryside of industrial England and the vast wilderness of boreal Sweden. They are prohibited in large countries such as Brazil and India, in tiny countries such as Gambia and Liechtenstein.

Many can serve as good examples. The Federal Republic of Germany, for instance, is similar, in many parts, to the United States—particularly our northeastern areas such as Pennsylvania, New York, and New England. West Germany has similar human population densities, land uses, climate, and natural vegeta-

tion. Like Pennsylvanians, the Germans work a major steel industry. Like New Yorkers, they have extensive vineyards and apple orchards. There is social affluence in both regions, with many automobiles, major highways, shopping areas, and suburbs. Both have similar political and economic systems.

Both have similar wildlife species as well, and have virtually exterminated major predators.

Among furbearers, German and north-eastern U.S. species are either identical or closely related. The red fox is found in both regions, as is the stoat, or ermine. Where Germany has the European otter, European hare, European marten, and European weasel inhabiting its broadleaf

ests, the Northeast United States has the American otter, Eastern cottontail, American marten, and American mink.

But unlike the Northeastern U.S., the German Federal Republic has years of experience with a prohibition on leg-hold traps. The present law (Art. 19, para. 1, No. 9 of the Federal Act on Hunting) was enacted in 1961, and prohibits all traps that do not either kill instantly or confine an animal unharmed.

The Germans, who have a well-earned reputation for methodical precision, have monitored the impact of their ban on leg-hold traps. According to Dr. Schmelz, Federal Minister for Food, Agriculture, and Forestry, 'Since the prohibition of the leg-hold trap I know of no serious problems which concern a) the animals' or human health, b) agriculture, c) overpopulation of game, or d) any other areas which could be directly associated with the prohibition on the leg-hold trap.'

Dr. Schmelz said as well that there

have been no serious economic consequences resulting from the banning of leg-hold traps, nor has there been a serious problem enforcing the ban:

'Now that the leg-hold trap has been prohibited, it has become evident that the cruelty to animals which could not be avoided previously when this trap was used, has been eliminated. Thus one can speak of a good effect on the natural ecosystem.'

Neighboring Switzerland has similar legislation, and is in the process of preparing a new hunting law which will prohibit all traps except box traps. Swiss trappers, nevertheless, take about 50,000 furbearers annually using alternative methods. Red fox is the most frequently trapped animal in Switzerland.

There have been recent reports in the U.S. press suggesting the Swiss have lifted their ban on leg-holds because of rabies epidemics. Such stories have been printed in several U.S. newspapers and offered as testimony to state legislative

A vigorous opponent of leg-hold trapping, Bill Clark works to restore imperiled species at Israel's Hai-Bar/Arava Nature Reserve.

committees considering bills to prohibit or restrict use of leg-hold traps.

I contacted Dr. Peter Dollinger, of the Swiss Federal Veterinary Office, and asked about the U.S. reports. He said they are not true and that the Swiss ban on leg-holds is still very much in force.

Switzerland does have some rabies in wild animals, but is dealing with it in a unique way. Veterinarians and biologists from the University of Bern are vaccinating foxes, the major rabies reservoir, against the disease. Measured doses of vaccine are inserted into sausage baits and then offered to wild foxes. The U.S. Center for Disease Control in Atlanta is working on a similar project, but only the Swiss have progressed as far as field application.

North American coyote (left) and bobcat (below) suffer in leg-hold traps banned in many countries. Dozens of governments have outlawed the leg-hold, without rabies epidemics or economic upsets prophesied by U.S. trappers.



WILDLIFE OFFICIALS in other European countries which have banned leg-hold traps all report that prohibition has not raised serious concerns for agriculture, economics, health, or the stability of wildlife populations.

Denmark represents the typical European situation. Leg-hold traps were banned there in 1931, with only certain specified uses permitted. Birgith Sloth of the Danish National Agency for the Protection of Nature, Monuments, and Sites notes that 'in Danish hunting legislation from 1931 you will find that leg-hold traps can only be placed to catch *Lutra lutra* [the European otter] at rivers and lakes [the fishermen considered big populations of *Lutra lutra* to be a threat to the fish populations], and in farmhouses or close to such for trapping species belonging to Mustelidae which were considered a threat to hens and the like.'

But in 1967, the Danes banned the leg-hold trap completely, and watched to see how many more otters would be eating fish, and weasels eating chickens. A dozen years later, Ms. Sloth reports 'it has also not been possible to trace any changes/increase in the population of the species concerned.'

Denmark doesn't have wall-to-wall weasels. In fact, none of the dozens of countries which have banned the leg-hold trap have noticed any adverse population shifts. If anything, banning the trap usually results in beneficial adjustments

to wildlife populations. Chile's experience is an example.

The banning of leg-hold traps in Chile, during 1970, is one of the few pieces of legislation to survive the Allende government. Jaime de la Sotta Benavente, agricultural engineer with Chile's Agricultural Service and Livestock Management General Office, says that since banning leg-hold traps, Chile has not noticed any health or environmental problems. Nor do trappers go hungry: 'One cannot say that this prohibition has led to adverse economic consequences now that the animals of economic importance are captured by other legally permitted means.'

Chile is an example of how non-industrial countries have taken the leadership role in banning leg-holds. During the past decade especially, developing countries have become increasingly aware of their own decision-making potential, and have avoided taking advice from industrial nations that have managed their own wildlife into near oblivion.

Bangladesh bans the leg-hold trap and, according to the country's Conservator of Forests, Shamsul Anwar, imposes strict penalties on anyone convicted

of using the device. Bengali law provides a minimum of one year 'rigorous imprisonment' and a minimum fine of 1,000 Taka (a full year's wage for the average Bengali) on first conviction. Shamsul records no more than two or three violations a year 'which are invariably detected and adequately punished.'

No serious problems, he says, have resulted from the ban. Some jackals and wild boars have done agricultural damage, but they are handled in alternative, non-violent means.

Among several African countries which have banned leg-hold traps, Gambia is among the most vigorous in its protection of wildlife. Eddie Brewer has been director of the Wildlife Conservation Department for 21 years. During that time, he knows of only two leg-hold traps having entered the country. When they were discovered, Brewer says, 'Customs Officers had them taken out to sea and dumped.'

'Since the use of jaw traps has been banned,' Brewer says, 'I am not aware of any serious animal, human-health, or agricultural problems—or indeed any problems directly attributed to the banning of jaw traps. As far as I have been able to ascertain, they have never been widely used here and it is refreshing to learn from almost every person I have spoken to in rural districts that such traps are considered excessively cruel.'

'How in Heaven's name does any politician or policy maker have the sheer effrontery to condemn human rights [violations] and injustice,' Brewer asks, 'when such barbarous cruelty is not only allowed but actively encouraged by your Government? Is the lesson *never* to be learned?'

'Were I to be granted one wish in my lifetime,' the wildlife director says, 'it would be that the manufacturers and users of these gruesome devices might be held by one of them all through a cold wet night. . . . Possibly they might then really appreciate just how inhumane they really are!'

Where the Gambian is ardent, the Israeli, characteristically, becomes a master of understatement.

Leg-hold traps are banned in Israel, according to Avraham Yoffe, director of the Israeli Nature Reserves Authority, because they are 'unsuitable.'

Yoffe notes that the Authority vigorously enforces the law and confiscates all contraband traps. As characteristic as their capacity for understatement is the

The United States imported furs valued at \$22,145,000 in 1979. Of this amount, \$11,357,000 came from countries which have banned the leg-hold trap; \$10,122,000 came from countries which have not banned leg-hold traps; and \$966,000 from non-specified countries according to U.S. Department of Commerce documents.

Imports from countries banning the trap are as follows:

Brazil	\$ 220,000
Denmark	99,000
West Germany	4,894,000
Greece	1,503,000
Italy	697,000
Netherlands	98,000
Sweden	139,000
Switzerland	89,000
United Kingdom	3,618,000

Total \$11,357,000

In 1979, the United States exported furs valued at \$104,070,000. Of this \$78,617,000 went to eight countries which ban the leg-hold trap; \$24,678,000 went to countries which have not banned the leg-hold; and \$775,000 went to non-specified countries.

Exports to countries banning the trap are as follows:

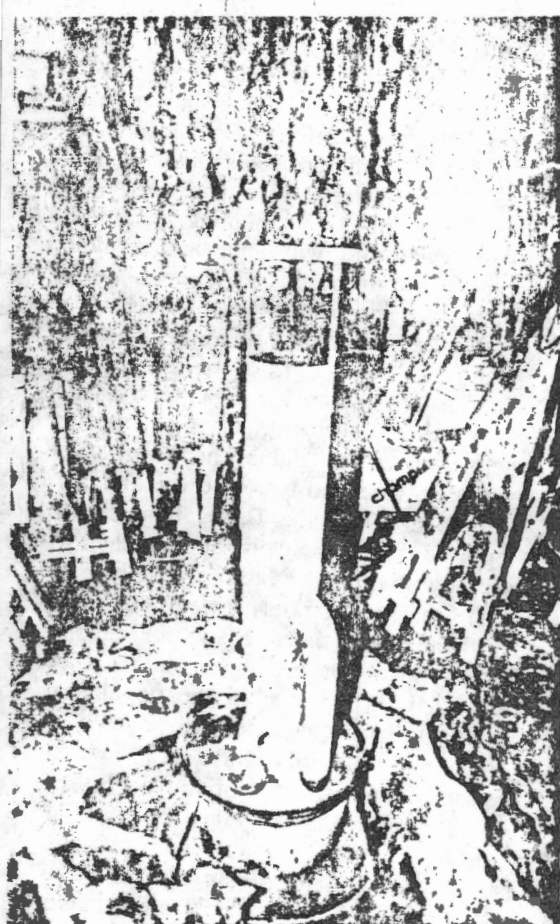
Denmark	\$ 223,000
West Germany	7,439,000
Greece	30,747,000
Hong Kong	15,173,000
Israel	421,000
Italy	7,955,000
Switzerland	14,364,000
United Kingdom	2,295,000

Total \$78,617,000

Israeli capacity for leaving no stone turned. 'There are no serious problems concerning violation of the ban,' Yoffe says. 'From time to time we find physical evidence of a trap being used, mainly by primitive people, and those caught dealt with sternly. At this point I should add that we frequently check up on metal workshops and factories, confiscating any leg-hold traps we find there.'

Yoffe said there have been no health, agricultural, or economic problems caused by prohibition of leg-hold traps and added, 'there is no doubt that the ban on leg-hold traps has had a beneficial effect on human society, and mainly on natural ecosystems in our country.'

Obviously, the American trap spreads something unlike truth. The experience of dozens of other countries many with environmental situations nearly identical to those found in



Dick Randall

Upper sets leg-hold near pawprint of mature raccoon, at right. But foreign markets for gruesome trapping-shack inventory (shown at bottom left) may soon shrink: England, Switzerland, and West Germany — big buyers of U.S. furs — are considering proposals to block importation of pelts cruelly taken.

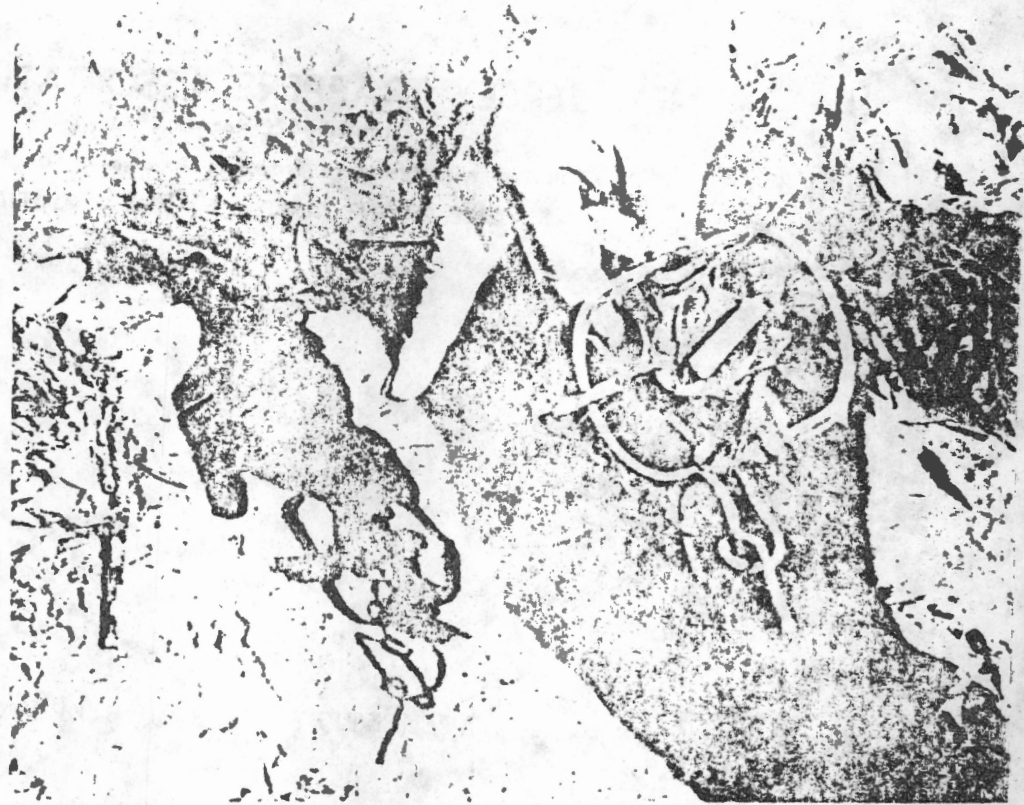
United States—seems to offer conclusive evidence against the great catastrophes prophesied by our trappers. Prohibitions against the leg-hold trap did not torpedo the British fishing industry or poultry business. The Germans are not fighting for their economic survival; the Swiss are not fighting to protect their confederacy's public health. In countries such as Bangladesh, where public health is a very grave problem, the leg-hold trap is not even an aid in any way. The same goes for Sweden, which has one of the best public health programs in the world.

Prohibitions against the leg-hold find no particular political persuasion friendlier than others. The trap is banned in capitalist West Germany and communist Poland, in capitalist Dominican Republic and communist Cuba. Colonial Hong Kong, monarchial Jordan, republican Greece, and socialist Israel all ban the leg-hold.

THE UNITED STATES' major fur trading partners are also generally inclined toward banning leg-hold traps.

According to the U.S. Department of Commerce's Foreign Trade Division, the majority of furs imported by the United States come from West Germany, Norway, Sweden, Netherlands, Italy, Brazil, Denmark, Greece, Israel, and England. (Each has banned the leg-hold trap.) This does not necessarily mean that all furs coming from these countries originated in them. A West German fur dealer could purchase fox skins from a Swiss merchant and then sell them to a U.S. buyer. The Commerce Department has no means of testing what percentage of a country's fur exports originate in that country (except in the case of species listed on the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, which account for a relatively small portion of the international fur trade).

But it can be presumed that many furs imported into the United States come directly from the country of origin; too



Richard Lee-Fulham

many middlemen increase the price of an already expensive commodity. The brisk fur trade done in countries that have banned leg-holds illustrates the point that abandoning the trap does not necessarily mean abandoning the fur trade.

On the other side of the ledger, Commerce Department statistics also point out that the United States exports the vast majority of its furs to countries which have banned the leg-hold trap. Denmark, Greece, Hong Kong, Israel, Switzerland, Italy, England, and West Germany together buy nearly three-quarters of all U.S. exported furs—yet each of these countries has banned leg-hold traps on grounds of cruelty and non-selectivity.

From several of these countries now come demands that the U.S. mend its ways or peddle its furs elsewhere. In England, several members of Parliament have been pressured to introduce legislation to block importation of any furs cruelly taken. In Switzerland, there is a movement designed to prohibit importation of any animal products obtained by methods that violate Swiss law. In West Germany, the U.S. embassy has been flooded with protests demanding that we stop shipping into the Federal Republic furs of animals caught in leg-hold traps.

(Each of these foreign efforts points to U.S. law for precedent. For example, the U.S. Marine Mammal Protection Act embargoes furs taken from Canadian

harp-seal pups, because it considers the process of taking those furs to have been cruel.)

Reports from foreign countries confirm that large parts of the earth get along rather well without the leg-hold trap. In some of these countries, trapping animals for their fur is still an accepted method of making money. The vitality of these trapping interests confirms that there are alternatives to the leg-hold trap. Despite the claims of many U.S. trappers, standard box traps are quite effective for capturing almost any wild mammal.

Our trappers commonly complain that box traps might be effective in capturing raccoon and opossum, but are useless for capturing canids, especially foxes. However, the U.S. Center for Disease Control uses only box traps as a matter of policy: In recent years they have trapped hundreds of foxes, from Georgia to Alaska, with box traps manufactured by the Tomahawk Live Trap Company. The foxes were trapped in connection with rabies studies.

Evidence from abroad ultimately suggests only one thing about our home-grown trappers: They resist a ban on leg-hold traps not from fear of endangering public health, or American agriculture, or our foreign trade. Pious pronouncements aside, they resist because a ban on leg-holds would mean they must invest in new kinds of traps, traps which would cost them a few dollars more.

NEW JERSEY TRAPPERS ASSOCIATION, Inc.

Established October, 1961

Affiliated with National Trappers Association of America

VOICE OF THE TRAPPER - MUTUAL BENEFIT



JERSEY BLACK RAT

A STATEMENT BY JAMES DeSTEPHANO

TO KEEP THE LEGHOLD TRAP IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY

SUBMITTED

SEPTEMBER 14, 1983

Help perpetuate the Nation's oldest industry, the "Fur Trade"
by buying, selling, and wearing "North American Produced Furs."

22x

This is a statement against the passage of A-3207/S-1575, a bill to ban the use or possession of the leghold trap.

Since I have trapped for the last 27 years off and on, when the leghold was the only trap available, and later when other types were developed, I feel I am fairly knowledgeable on the applications of the leghold trap.

I know the leghold trap is the most efficient and in some cases the only means available to catch animals in the wild.

But there are people present who are more knowledgeable on this and I will leave the justifications for using the leghold trap to them.

Since I have been involved in the fur sales run by the New Jersey Trappers Association for the last 6 years, I know the economic value both to the state and to the individual trapper.

First of all each trapper spends approximately \$200.00 a year on traps, lures, baits, etc. This generates \$12.00 per trapper or \$60,000.00 per year in sales tax on supplies alone. This is without the day to day expenses like gas, vehicles, boats, licenses, etc. But these figures are not as important as the sales of raw fur.

Since the New Jersey Trappers Association started their sales the figures are:

1979	\$137,994
1980	113,647
1981	89,220
1982	129,633

This is the total of \$470,494 in sales divided amongst approximately 125 trappers. or \$940.99 per trapper per year. This figure multiplied by approximately 5,000 trappers results in \$4,725,000 per year in income to the trappers.

This is split between the December sale, when money for Christmas, and the March sales when most people need extra money to cover bills accumulated during the winter when heating bills eat up most extra cash.

By eliminating the leghold trap the largest part of this extra money will be removed from the people who need it most.

At this time when jobs and industry are fleeing New Jersey in droves, to eliminate this seasonal source of income would put another strain on a population already struggling to survive the high tax rate and day to day bills of living in New Jersey.

I have always believed that when your feelings about something, whatever it may be, are strong enough to dominate your thoughts, and the actions they spur then dominate your time, it's important to write them down. The length of the work, or whether you choose to share it with anyone, is not important. What is important, at least to me, is having a written creed about which you can say, "This is me. This is what I believe." The following is me, and it expresses what I believe.

While the current situation in New Jersey, revolving around Senate Bill S3207, is what finally prompted me to put my thoughts down on paper, the feelings aroused in me by this bill extend far beyond its limits. They involve beliefs in basic rights and freedoms which I have held all of my life, and which would be denied by this legislation proposed in ignorance of both man and nature.

Everyone is entitled to opinions on any given subject. But some of those opinions, I believe, hold more weight than others due to the greater knowledge of some people about that subject. For instance, you might listen to a dozen suggestions on how to fix a leaky pipe, but it's the plumber's you'll follow because he knows more about fixing pipes than your family and friends. Yet in the case of Senate Bill S3207, whose directions may we be forced to follow? Those of trappers and hunters who understand the balance of nature and respect the environment? I don't think so. I don't think I know best, either, but as one who has trapped, fished, hunted and studied nature firsthand all of my life, I do think I know better than some.

Because I strongly oppose ~~S3207~~^{S3207}, it has been implied that my views on trapping indicate a cruel, inhumane attitude toward other living creatures. This is so far from the truth as to be ridiculous. I oppose the bill because I am a trapper. I have seen the damage animals have done themselves trying to escape leg hold traps. I have also seen the often greater damage they do in the readily accepted, "humane" box trap. And I have seen what happens to animals trapped by alterna-

tive methods, including snares, body grippers, and killer traps. It is precisely because I have seen each of these situations, not merely read about them or heard them described by others who often have not themselves even seen what I have, that I believe my thoughts on this subject to be valuable.

But, as I have said, trapping is not the issue. Freedom is the issue. Somewhere, priorities have become confused. It seems that some people prefer to consider the rights of animals before those of man. These same people, it seems, cannot understand that as more and more people move from urban to rural areas, to "get back to nature," they build houses, condos, roads and shopping centers to the point where that area looks much like the one from which they came. In so doing, they destroy the homes and feeding grounds of countless animals, who are then forced to live in closer proximity to man.

Many of these animals then look to man, his property and his refuse, for food. Racoons, for example, may become merely a backyard nuisance, toppling garbage cans and making a mess, or a backyard peril, preying on livestock and domestic animals, attacking a child who has cornered it, thinking it cute and cuddly, a potential pet.

These and other small predatory animals themselves have no natural predators. They continue to multiply. Their right to destroy private property is protected, our right to protect that property from them is denied. There is no way to control this problem without trapping. But some people confuse the need for controlled trapping with a desire to painfully wipe out entire animal populations for sport or profit.

I cannot deny that poor trappers exist and will continue to trap, just as poor drivers will continue to drive. Would those who suggest abolishing trapping also suggest forbidding everyone to drive based on the poor performance records of a few? Poor trappers, like drivers, are few. But because their irresponsibility is easily sensationalized, the majority is forced to share the blame. I recently interviewed fifteen veterinarians in the area in which I live. Only one

was opposed to the leg hold trap. And in one year, the greatest number of limb amputations involving trapped domestic animals per vet was three, and in every case but one, the animal ran large and was not on its owner's property. So, in all these cases, one incidence of trapping irresponsibility. Tragic, yes. But enough to forbid trapping? No.

If, as in the case of domestic animals which have caused damage, an owner could be contacted and forced to keep his animal at home, and could be held accountable for damages, trapping would, perhaps, be less necessary. But no owner can be contacted when racoons destroy private property. The only possible confrontation is between man and racoon, not man and man. If S3207 becomes law, the racoon is assured victory.

But what about the current threat of rabies spreading east into New Jersey from Pennsylvania? Will it take a few bitten children to convince people that there is a need to control the animal population by trapping? It shouldn't take a rabies scare to prove the need for control, but it seems that that is exactly what it will take.

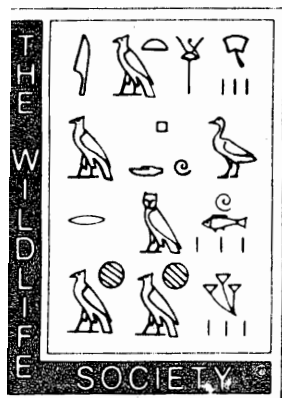
I do not advocate indiscriminate trapping. Like lawyers, doctors and plumbers, trappers should be skilled professionals trained in their field as other professionals are trained in theirs. We must learn to drive. We study laws, rules, and the operation of different vehicles. We are licensed. I would suggest similar requirements for trappers and trapping. The need for controlled trapping undeniably exists and with it the need for skilled trappers.

As a boy, I had the opportunity to play organized sports, which I did and enjoyed. But it was not on the baseball diamond or the football field that I was most at home. It was in the fields, the woods, the streams. It is in my blood to hunt, to trap, to fish. Because I have spent my life observing nature, I understand its balances, including its excesses. My only desire is to preserve the balance, not to destroy life, certainly not to torture animals.

I have spent many hours away from home, enjoying a good hunt. Lately, I have spent a great deal of time both on the phone and away from home, working to stop passage of S3207.

For their uncomplaining understanding, for their patience and support, I thank Sue and Kim, my wife and daughter. And for his encouragement to pursue what I believe is right, with an open mind and heart, I thank my friend Donald Pepper.

Paul Wermuth
Bernardsville, New Jersey
July, 1983



NEW JERSEY CHAPTER

September 14, 1983

My name is Peter Plage. I am a member of the executive council of the New Jersey Chapter of The Wildlife Society. I am here today representing the New Jersey Chapter and the parent organization. The Wildlife Society is an international non-profit organization comprised of professionals serving the resource management fields, especially wildlife ecology and management. Our society has over 8,000 members residing in over 40 countries. The principle objectives of the society are 1.) to develop and promote sound stewardship of wildlife resources and the environments upon which wildlife and humans depend; 2.) to undertake an active role in preventing human-induced environmental degradation; 3.) to increase awareness and appreciation of wildlife values; and 4.) to seek the highest standards in all activities of the wildlife profession.

The Wildlife Society is dedicated to the wise management and conservation of wildlife. Within this framework, we support the most efficient and appropriate techniques available to accomplish specific management goals. Trapping with steel traps has been used for centuries to harvest wildlife and to reduce animal damage. Today, trapping remains an effective, economical, and ecologically sound method of harvesting or controlling certain species of wildlife.

We recognize the need for trapping regulations to accomplish specified management objectives, to assure that humane techniques are used, and to protect non-target species.

The policy of The Wildlife Society in regard to trapping, is to:
1.) Recognize that trapping can be used effectively to take certain animals without impairing the well-being of that species.

- 2.) Recognize that trapping has been and currently is a successful technique for capturing animals for specific purposes.
- 3.) Encourage resource agencies to ensure that trapping is permitted in concert with sound stewardship of wildlife.
- 4.) Recognize that the steel leghold trap represents an effective, practical means for capturing certain species of wildlife, and, simultaneously, to lessen the impact on non-target species, encourage the development of improved traps, better trapping techniques, and effective alternate methods of taking animals.
- 5.) Promote and encourage development of new approaches for improving decisions affecting the biological and social impacts of trapping.

THE NEED FOR HARVEST: A PARALLEL

By Jim Pedersen
Copyright, 1983

Life is a flowing thing. Just as in a stream where one molecule or ounce of water is replaced by another, one individual animal is replaced by another. Just as streams flood or dry up, animal populations overpopulate or become scarce. A stream has banks as its limits. Populations are limited by the "carrying capacity" of the environment. Carrying capacity is the number of animals that can fill their needs (food, cover, water, denning sites, etc.) in a given area. That is, the area will "carry" or support that many animals.

Streams are dammed to regulate floods and drought. If no outlet is provided, the stream will overflow and wash away the dam, resulting in a flood, then drought.

By harvesting animal populations, they are deterred from overpopulating and destroying the carrying capacity of their range (home area). When populations are too big, they will eat all the food, leaving nothing to produce next years food. The result is that no species can live where one species depleted the area.

Just as a flooded stream causes problems other than washing away dams, overpopulation causes disease (rabies, sarcoptic mange, distemper, tularemia, etc.), animal damage to crops, pets and property.

When floods occur, bailing is not the only suitable response. Levees are built up to lessen the incoming water. Goods are moved out of the reach of the water.

When disease occurs, catching the sick animals is not the only suitable action. By reducing the population, the cause of the disease is removed, and the chance for the disease to spread is lessened.

Some ponds (dammed streams) are used for recreation, some for drinking water, some for power production, but they still regulate flood and drought.

The harvesting of wildlife is done for recreation, for food, for fur, etc., but it accomplishes effective wildlife management.

THE USE OF THE FOOT-HOLD TRAP: A PERSPECTIVE

No invention of man is without potential for abuse or misuse. Automobiles are driven recklessly and dangerously. They are used in the commission of crimes. Knives have been used to kill and maim people. The list could go on forever.

Nobody wishes to live without these devices because the need for them is generally understood.

Automobiles are the best general transportation device known. There are other means of transportation but they don't answer the needs as well in most cases. Bicycles are cheaper but of limited range and speed. Buses carry more people but don't go everywhere. Horses need too much care and room and are too slow. The alternatives have use but are not quite as practical in most situations.

In order to harvest wildlife, many methods are used. Some species can be effectively hunted. Others are seen too rarely to be hunted so they must be trapped. Some individuals live in situations where hunting is not practical and must be trapped.

The foot-hold (leg-hold) trap is the most versatile, practical and effective trap known. There are alternatives but they don't answer the needs well; in most cases. Conibears are too dangerous where pets are encountered, and ineffective on certain species. Snares require very specific conditions. Box or cage traps are too big and heavy to carry any distance, and are ineffective on certain species. The foot-hold trap can be used on all species that are trapped and can be used in most situations. Unwanted, non-target catches can be released alive and unharmed.

Automobiles kill thousands of people each year. Thousands more are maimed. Foot-hold traps have never killed anybody. Nobody has been crippled by any foot-hold that may be used in New Jersey. Automobiles destroy thousands of animals each year. The animals seen dead along the road were the lucky ones; they died quickly. Many suffer for weeks and months before dying. Trapped animals are killed quickly.

Nobody is trying to ban automobiles, despite the damage they do, because the need for them is understood. Any slight damage attributed to foot-hold traps is negligible when the need for them is understood, especially when viewed in the light of what we accept from automobiles.

It's hard, isn't it, to call such killing "kind" — but it's better than allowing the poor creature to flop up and down until it finally gasps out its life.

When we find ways of having fun that do not cause pain and death to any other living beings, we'll all be happier! In the meantime —

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE A FISH?



I go a-gunning but take no gun;
I fish without a pole;
And I bag good game and catch such fish
As suit a sportsman's soul.
For the choicest game that the forest holds
And the best fish in the brook
Are never brought down by a rifle shot
And never are caught with a hook.

... A rodless Walton of the brooks,
A bloodless sportsman I;
I hunt for the thoughts that throng the woods,
The dreams that haunt the sky.

—SAM WALTER FOSS

KIND

Kindness in Nature's Defense

The Kindness Club (ages 6-10), DEFENDERS (ages 11-14), EcoKIND (ages 15-18)
THE NATIONAL HUMANE EDUCATION CENTER

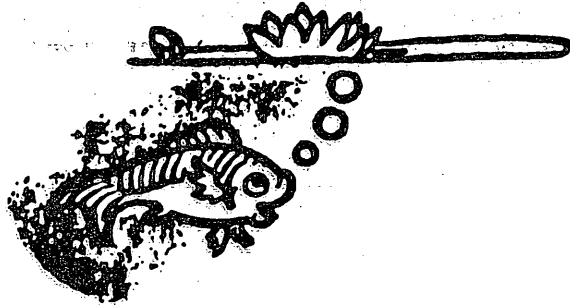
Write: KIND, Waterford, Va. 22190



Prepared for The Kindness Club
by Hope Sawyer Buyukmihci

Handwritten notes in the top right corner, possibly a signature or date, which are mostly illegible.

33x



A FISH is a little animal like you except that to him water is like air to us.

Once two Chinese men were watching some fish. "Look how happily the fish are jumping in the water," said Chuang Tse. "That is the fish's joy."

Hui Tse said, "How can you know the fish's joy?"

"I know the fish's joy from my joy when I watch them from the bridge," said Chuang Tse.

When we see someone riding a new bicycle, we know just how he feels. When we see a person stub his toe or cut his finger, we know how that feels too. If we put ourselves in the place of any living creature, and use our imagination, we know how he feels, even if he doesn't look just like us!

Of course a fish has feelings too. Modern scientists stress this fact. A fish likes to live. He likes to jump and play just as we do when we feel happy.

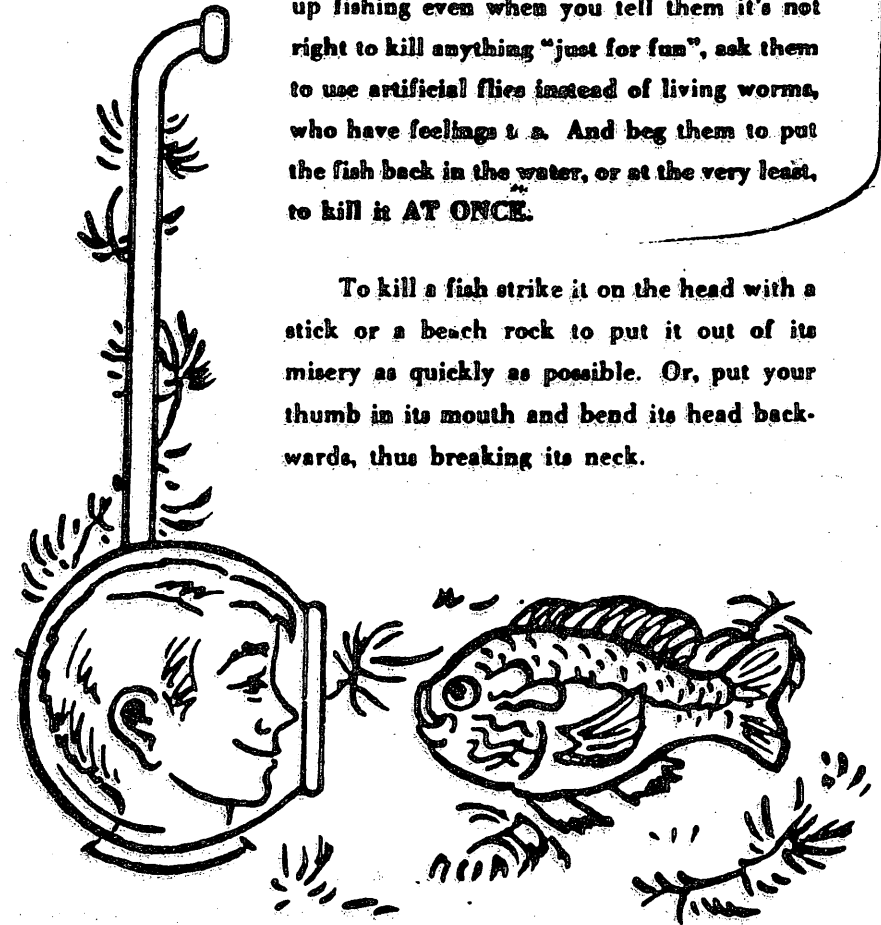
When a fish is caught on a cruel hook, he tries desperately to get away. He is fighting for his life. Is it sporting for a big human being to laugh and call that fun?

When they've begun to THINK, many grown-ups used to fish, have given it up, and now instead of killing, they find fun in studying fish just as Chuang Tse did.

In clear water much can be learned by watching fish from above. Those who swim under water are able to look through a window in their headgear and study them in their homes, disturbing them as little as possible of course.

If you know people who just won't give up fishing even when you tell them it's not right to kill anything "just for fun", ask them to use artificial flies instead of living worms, who have feelings too. And beg them to put the fish back in the water, or at the very least, to kill it AT ONCE.

To kill a fish strike it on the head with a stick or a beach rock to put it out of its misery as quickly as possible. Or, put your thumb in its mouth and bend its head backwards, thus breaking its neck.





More than 60 species of wildlife have been studied.

of its record.

...23 M.S. Degrees and 8 Ph.D. Degrees have been earned by graduate students affiliated with SCWDS.

...Graduate level courses in wildlife diseases have been offered by SCWDS staff each summer since 1963.

...By special enrollment, veterinary students from accredited colleges may spend a one-month internship at SCWDS.

...SCWDS offers in-depth training sessions for personnel of state and federal wildlife agencies and diagnosticians of APHIS/USDA.



Dr. Frank Hayes (far left), SCWDS Director, and Bob Ellis (green cap), Florida Wildlife Biologist, involved in news conference during Everglades deer crisis.

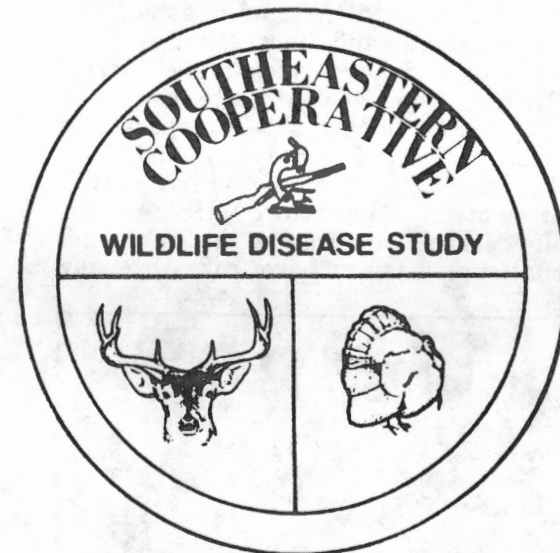
The collective activities of SCWDS have resulted in publication of more than 200 articles in numerous scientific journals, symposia, and books. *Diseases and Parasites of White-tailed Deer*, a book edited by SCWDS personnel, further establishes SCWDS as a reference center for information on diseases and parasites of this nation's number one big game animal.

With more than 25 years' experience, SCWDS provides unparalleled expertise pertaining to wildlife diseases. Dr. Frank A. Hayes, SCWDS Director, and other staff members have provided expert advice on numerous occasions to state wildlife agencies, the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, the U.S. Animal Health Association, and Emergency Programs of Veterinary Services, APHIS, USDA. Since 1975, Dr. Hayes has represented wildlife interests on the Secretary of Agriculture's Advisory Committee on Foreign Animal and Poultry Diseases.

The Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study is today what its founders had hoped it would be...an action-oriented cooperative agency providing continuous service for the welfare of this nation's wildlife resources, domestic livestock interests, and human health.

...Publication of this brochure was funded in part through the courtesy of Conoco, Inc.'s Financial Aid to Education Program, Stamford, CT.

THE COOPERATIVE APPROACH



---For a quarter of a century it has contributed to the betterment of this nation's irreplaceable wildlife resources, its multi-billion dollar livestock economy, and its unsurpassed public health programs.

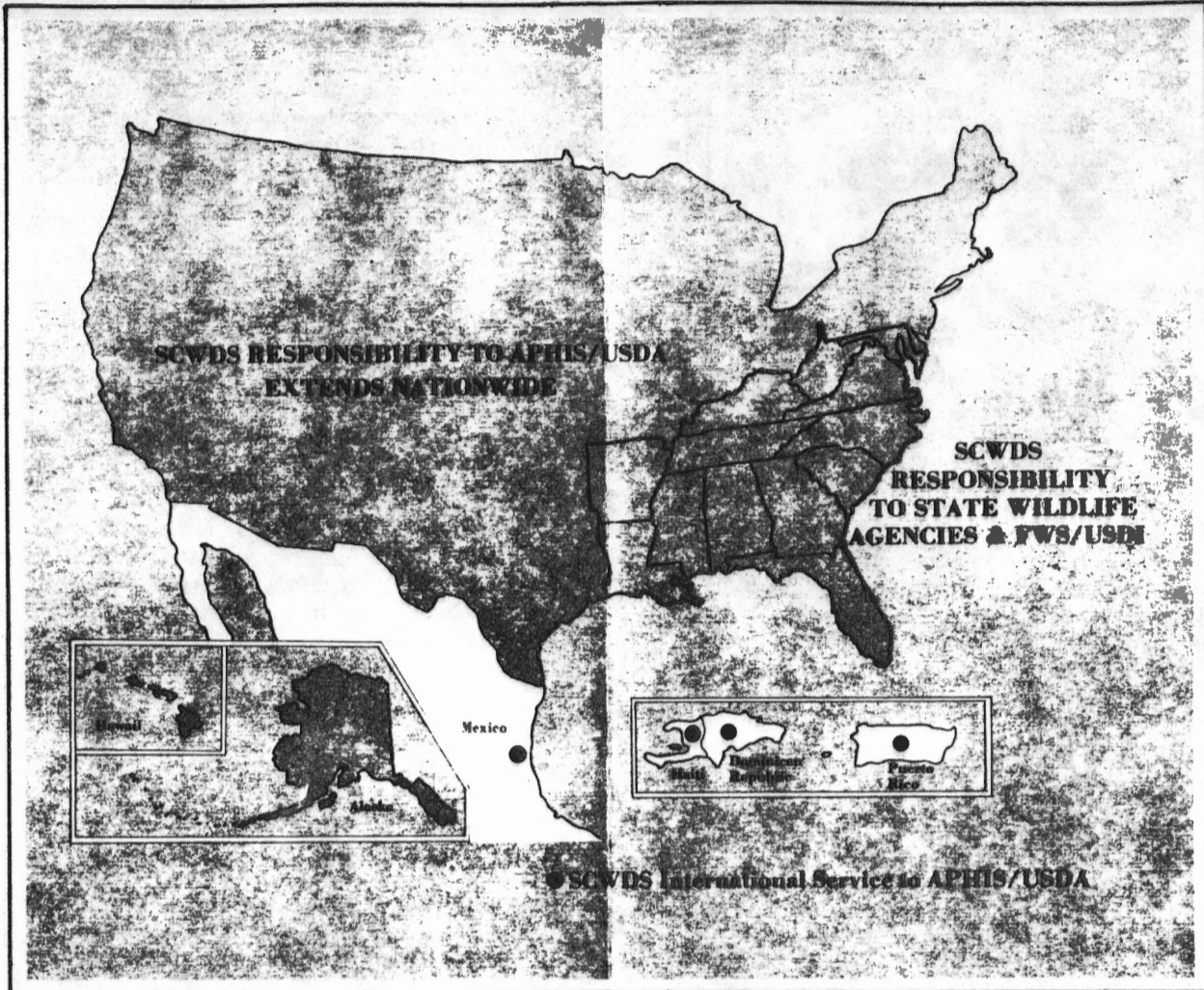
THE COOPERATIVE APPROACH

The state-federal cooperative structure of the Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study (SCWDS) is the most cost-efficient means of providing high quality wildlife disease expertise to State and Federal Agencies responsible for this nation's wildlife and domestic livestock resources. By sharing facilities, vehicles, scientific equipment, salaries, and other costs, each sponsoring agency has access to wildlife disease capabilities far more sophisticated and responsive than could be afforded individually. The SCWDS program does not duplicate the efforts of any existing State or Federal Laboratory or Agency but, instead, provides services of scope and quality that otherwise would not be available.

The state wildlife agencies of 13 southeastern states and the Fish and Wildlife Service of the U.S. Department of the Interior (USDI) fund regional wildlife research and service projects. SCWDS also is supported by Veterinary Services of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), for wildlife surveillance on a national and international basis where diseases may



SCWDS Biologists, assisted by Haitian Technicians trained by SCWDS, collected blood samples from more than 1,600 swine throughout Haiti to determine the distribution of African Swine Fever.



interact among wildlife, domestic livestock, and poultry.

In addition to the financial benefits of a cooperative approach, there are numerous other points of consideration. Wildlife disease problems are of mutual concern to a variety of people...wildlife managers, outdoor recreationists, farmers, landowners, veterinarians, and physicians. SCWDS serves as common ground where wildlife experts work hand-in-hand with private, state, and federal authorities toward a common goal.

HISTORY

The Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study was founded in 1957 by the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies to determine the cause of widespread die-offs of white-tailed deer. Headquarters and support facilities were made available through agreement with The University of Georgia's College of Veterinary Medicine in Athens, Georgia. This became the first diagnostic and research service to be

established for the specific purpose of investigating wildlife diseases.

Prior to inception of SCWDS, knowledge of wildlife diseases in the Southeast was almost nonexistent. Sickness or death among wild animals spawned speculations, accusations, and wild myths, particularly when domestic livestock were nearby. Shortly after its formation, SCWDS began to provide answers to many long-standing questions. The obvious utility of the new information attracted immediate attention, and state wildlife agency funding was soon followed by annual USDI-administered grants and later by USDA support. Thus, SCWDS grew from a small project with one mission to a versatile, multipurpose wildlife disease research and service organization.



A large percentage of SCWDS' workload involves white-tailed deer — the number one big game animal in the United States.

MISSION

The objectives of SCWDS always have been to:

- ...detect causes of sickness and death in wildlife;
- ...define the impact of diseases and parasites upon wild animal populations;
- ...delineate disease interrelationships between wildlife and domestic livestock;
- ...determine the role of wildlife in transmission of human diseases.

During the past quarter century, SCWDS has investigated thousands of cases of sick and dying wild animals involving more than 60 different species of mammals, birds, reptiles, and amphibians. These experiences have led to a broad base of expertise and have revealed those recurring disease problems that are important in each wildlife species. Available through association with The University of Georgia is a full spectrum of diagnostic laboratory facilities. Specialized diagnostic tests also are provided through support by the National Veterinary Services Laboratories, APHIS, USDA.



Veterinarians from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Army Veterinary Corps join a SCWDS Veterinarian in the postmortem examination of a deer.

RESEARCH

Research accomplishments of SCWDS have been recognized nationally and internationally. The parasites and diseases affecting every major resident game mammal and upland game-bird in the southeastern U.S.

problems that appear during basic surveys, diagnostic activities, or field investigations have become topics for more in-depth study.

Results of these studies have extensive practical application in wildlife management, domestic livestock and poultry production, and public health policy.

Some examples...

...**Hemorrhagic disease** of white-tailed deer is the major cause of large-scale sporadic deer die-offs in the Southeast.

...**Brucellosis and leptospirosis**, important cattle diseases, are not spread by white-tailed deer in the Southeast.

...**Toxoplasmosis**, infective to humans, is harbored by white-tailed deer, but the risk of infection from venison is probably no greater than from beef, pork, or lamb.

...**Deer management** in the Southeast is greatly enhanced through herd health monitoring procedures developed by SCWDS.

...**Certain foreign game birds** should not be introduced because they harbor diseases fatal to native game bird populations.

...**Introduction of elk or mule deer** is futile in most southeastern areas because white-tailed deer harbor a parasite that can gradually paralyze most other deer species.

...**Wild swine populations** throughout the southeastern United States frequently harbor important swine diseases such as brucellosis and pseudorabies.

...**Interstate translocation of raccoons** is a questionable practice because of infectious diseases such as rabies, parvovirus, and canine distemper.

FIELD OPERATIONS

With the multitude of wildlife disease problems confronting the U.S., diagnostic abilities and research programs must be supported by quality field capabilities. SCWDS maintains a "strike force" of personnel able to move rapidly to any troubled area and quickly assess the situation. The cooperative support from state and federal wildlife organizations allows immediate coordination of resources of all agencies involved.



An excellent example of a critical need for field capability occurred during the Exotic Newcastle Disease Eradication Program of 1972-1974. At that time, a highly contagious foreign virus threatened the poultry industries in California, Florida, Texas, and ultimately, the nation. Disease eradication was initiated by Emergency Programs of USDA, but many poultry disease authorities believed that wild birds were saturated with virus and eradication was hopeless. SCWDS assumed responsibility for assessing wild animal involvement, and massive cooperative efforts soon showed that wildlife were not involved in maintenance of the disease. With renewed public support, the eradication program vaulted forward. Eradication by depopulating infected poultry was accomplished, and consumers of poultry products were spared having to spend an additional \$230 million per year.



Long-term studies on bobwhite quail are an important part of SCWDS' gamebird research.

Other examples...

...Anaplasmosis, a scourge of southeastern cattle producers, had been blamed on white-tailed deer. Investigations by SCWDS prevented wholesale slaughter of deer by demonstrating that even those deer grazing among infected cattle played no part in the spread of anaplasmosis.

...Cattle Fever Tick eradication in Florida in the 1930s and 1940s involved killing more than 20,000 white-tailed deer. SCWDS research later documented that eradication of the tick in other areas could be accomplished by dipping cattle without the need to kill all deer.

...Anthrax, transmissible to humans, was spreading death among deer and livestock along the Mississippi River. A SCWDS field team diagnosed the problem which was confirmed by the Mississippi State Diagnostic Laboratory. This prompted vaccination of livestock and implementation of public health precautions.

...Deaths of Young Herons and Egrets annually inflicted a heavy toll on the largest wading bird colony in the Northeast.

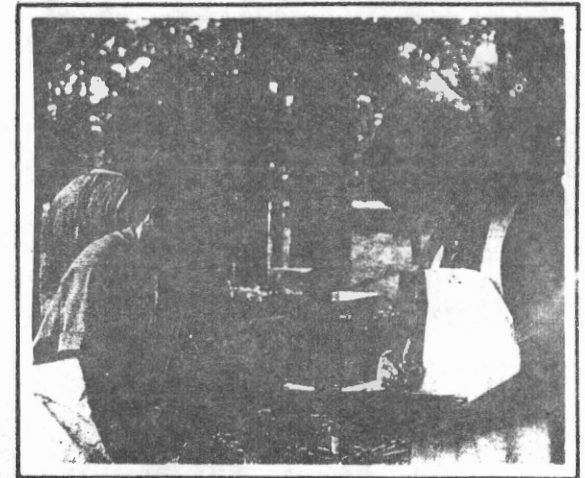


Non-game species such as the Eastern Brown Pelican receive priority when problems arise.

Biologists from SCWDS and the Manomet Bird Observatory discovered that the culprit was a parasite transmitted in fish being eaten by the birds.

...Bovine Tuberculosis, a recurring problem in cattle herds in Edmonson County, Kentucky, was blamed on the white-tailed deer in the Mammoth Cave National Park. A cooperative investigation by the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, USDA, and SCWDS demonstrated that white-tailed deer were not involved as reservoirs or disseminators of the disease.

...Mysterious Deer Deaths at Randle Cliff Naval Research Laboratory, Maryland, were being blamed on poisoning by polychlorinated biphenyl chemicals (PCBs) which were stored on the area. SCWDS staff joined with Maryland Wildlife Administration personnel to make a field diagnosis of hemorrhagic disease, which was confirmed by virus isolation from tissues sent to USDA's National Veterinary Services Laboratories in Ames, Iowa.



Temporary laboratory facilities must have the minimum requirements — a table, electricity, and running water.

INSTRUCTION

SCWDS places a high value on its educational program and is justifiably proud

dog she has ever treated. So when I heard her anguished cries, I knew she was suffering severe pain. I ran to her and discovered that her front toes were tightly clamped in a steel jawed leghold trap and her violent efforts to jerk free were exacerbating her pain. It was apparent that, if I did not release her quickly, she would dislocate all of her toes. Yet I could not do this, for the dog was yanking and pulling against the trap with such violence I didn't dare try to pull it apart for fear the tightly sprung device would be jerked from my hands and snap shut again on the animal's already injured paw. I called for help at the top of my lungs. Fortunately, a neighbor heard me and came running. Together we released the dog; I held Zoe tightly to restrain her, while he, needing both hands to do so, opened the trap. Because we managed to release the dog within minutes of her becoming trapped, she sustained no permanent crippling. Had I not been present to restrain her from self injury, however, she certainly would have dislocated all of her toes.

My neighbor's cat was not so lucky as Zoe. She disappeared in mid-winter and when a two day search failed to turn up the missing animal, my neighbor, Mr. Thomas Wagner, presumed his pet was dead. On the third day, however, pitiful mews were heard and the cat was discovered caught by a hind leg in a steel jawed leghold trap. The animal was in terrible condition. Her leg had frozen and, ultimately, had to be amputated. Today that cat hobbles about on its three remaining legs and cannot be allowed outside, for it no longer is able to protect itself from dogs by running up a tree.

Two other dogs in this presumably protected watershed area have also been caught in steel jawed leghold traps. One, a dalmatian puppy who's bone were still soft, suffered permanent crippling. The other, a full grown Norwegian Elkhound, recovered full use of its leg but suffered pain for a month's time.

These incidents point up a number of misconceptions commonly held regarding the leghold trap. One: the weight of a trap does not in itself determine the extent of damage it can inflict. The normal reaction of a trapped animal is to try to escape. My dog was caught in a trap set for small animals but would have dislocated her toes in short order had I not been present to prevent her from doing so. Frequently, animals break their teeth chewing on traps in an effort to release themselves. And I have seen and photographed wild animals, namely coyotes, that have chewed off a leg to escape from a trap. Finally, many animals ring off their paws in order to free themselves. I present here evidence of a badger having done just that. Two: traps are not always placed in safe out-of-the-way places. No one's pet is safe from these barbaric devices. Three: trapping regulations are not always observed. None of the traps described above were marked with identification tags as is required by law. Several were set out-of-season. All were placed on private posted land.

To obtain some idea of the incidence of crippling of wild animals caught by the steel jawed leghold trap, I would like to call your attention to a four year study conducted on the Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge in Alabama by Thomas Atkinson and published in the Journal of Wildlife Management.

Eighteen trap permits were issued to local citizens who trapped from the beginning of the fur season in late November until the end of the season in late February. The most common trap used by these people was the long-spring size 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ although some No 3 and No 1 traps were used, as well as coil spring, long spring, jump, single jaw, double jaw and high grip. One stipulation was made: the men granted permits to trap on the Refuge were required to report all crippling that resulted. For purposes of the study this would include all animals that had pulled out of traps by wringing off or gnawing off feet. The following information resulted:

- 1) 209 mink were caught during the four year study; an additional 79 were crippled (27.6%).
- 2) The raccoon catch was 429; an additional 137 raccoons were crippled (24%).
- 3) 962 opossums were trapped; 19 were crippled. This lower incidence is likely due to the docile nature of this animal.
- 4) There were 196 foxes (red and gray) trapped; 69 additional foxes were crippled (26%).

Since the study covered a four-year-period and involved individuals with varied degrees of trapping skill using a variety of trap sizes and types and experiencing all kinds of weather conditions, the percentages here should give a good indication of the extent of this problem.

Undoubtedly, all of you are aware that, over the past years, the New Jersey Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife has been making an effort to reintroduce the bobcat to the state.

Why the indigenous bobcat became extinct here during the 1960s cannot be known for certain, but rampant trapping cannot be excluded from the list of probable causes. No animal is so vulnerable to trapping as is the bobcat. During 1978, 1979 and 1980 I tracked bobcats in Arizona, Florida, California and Idaho in order to observe this species' behavior. Afterwards I wrote two books on the subject published by Viking Press and Putnam's respectively.

I am not the first person to note the bobcat's vulnerability to the steel jawed leghold trap. Like all cats, the bobcat is a curious animal and will play with every unusual object it chances upon in its travels, even a leghold trap. When it comes to trapping bobcats, it is not even a matter of much importance that bait be used. A bobcat often manages to get itself caught anyway. In years past, before the price of bobcat fur soared, trappers used to complain about the number of unwanted bobcats they found in traps they had baited for other species. As a result of its proclivity for getting itself caught, the bobcat has disappeared from wide swaths of its once widespread range. Bearing this in mind, it would seem an exercise in folly for the New Jersey Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife to continue to introduce bobcats into this state on one hand while promoting the use of leghold traps on the other.

The bobcat is not the only species that New Jersey is trying to restore to the state. Efforts are underway to protect and promote a remnant eagle population. For this reason, I believe, it is relevant that I describe my experiences observing eagles in the state of Minnesota last summer while writing a cover story for GEO magazine.

While on this assignment I visited the University of Minnesota Raptor Research and Rehabilitation Center, where I was shown a drawerful of eagle feet---thirty in all---that had been amputated from birds injured by leghold traps. Of the 237 bald eagles that have been brought to this clinic for treatment since it opened, 59 or 24% have been victims of the leghold trap. The veterinarian in charge, Dr. Patrick Redig, expressed the opinion that these trap casualties represented only the tip of the iceberg. Most trappers, he said, would be too ashamed to bring in a bald eagle caught in one of their traps and likely would turn the bird loose without benefit of medical treatment. Such untreated birds, he stressed, would stand little or no chance of surviving. Redig's experience treating 59 trap-injured bald eagles clearly demonstrates that even those birds whose traumas appear to be slight steadily worsen. Tissue damage caused by lack of circulation below the point of trap constriction almost inevitably results in the death of the leg. Redig took me on a tour of the bird wards and showed me a number of one-legged eagles which could never be released, for eagles need their feet to kill food.

Some of these amputees, it was hoped, might help in the endangered bald eagle recover program by providing eggs or chicks to be placed in wild eagle nests. I am sure you are aware that one such chick was placed in a wild eagle nest here in New Jersey. It would seem the ultimate irony if the end result of all this rehabilitation effort, namely a foster chick, would itself become a casualty of the steel jawed leghold trap.

While at the Raptor Rehab Center, I saw a screech owl brought in with both legs chopped off by a leghold trap. That bird was immediately euthanized.

Dr. Redig named the species that have been brought to his avian clinic with severe trap injuries, a total of 300 birds. These are: the barred owl, the great horned owl, the red tail hawk, the rough legged hawk, the goshawk, the screech owl, the broad winged hawk, the golden eagle and the bald eagle.

It would seem evident that New Jersey's efforts to restore the eagle to its former place in the state is being compromised, if not doomed to failure, by the continued presence of leghold traps.

The above descriptions are but a few of the experiences I have had in the fifteen years I have studied wildlife. During this time I have become convinced that the leghold trap is a device that ought have no place in responsible stewardship of wildlife. What few laws are in place to regulate this so-called sport have proved useless. It is time to get rid of the device altogether for it is inherently cruel and non-selective. To what extent the leghold trap has impacted threatened and endangered species will never be known. These unwanted victims are an embarrassment and are not reported.

Most nations now recognize the truth about trapping. Fifty countries and one state (Rhode Island) no longer permit use of the leghold trap, holding it to be a non-selective, ecologically damaging device that inflicts unnecessary suffering on animals. It is past time that we in the United States

Statement to the Committee and Industry
Committee of the New Jersey Assembly
March 24, 1983
Page 9

follow the lead of Burundi, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, the Ivory Coast, Kenya, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Rhodesia, Senegal, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda and the Upper Volta, which countries have banned every form of trapping. At the very least we must take note of the countries that no longer permit the use of the leghold trap and join their ranks. These countries are: Austria, Bangladesh, Belize, Brazil, British West Indies, Chile, Columbia, Costa Rica, Denmark, the Federal Republic of Germany, Great Britain, Hong Kong, Hungary, India, the Republic of Ireland, Israel, Jamaica, Jordon, Malawi, Malaysia, Mozambique, Niger, Norway, Portugal, Seychelles Islands, Singapore, Sweden, Switzerland, Trinidad and Tobago.

I urge that New Jersey join these enlightened nations and go on record as the second state in the union to ban the cruel and non-selective steel jawed leghold trap.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to speak to you today.

STATEMENT OF FLOYD KUCHARSKI, HUNTER, IN SUPPORT OF A BAN ON THE LEGHOLD TRAP
201-254-1939

My name is Floyd Kucharski. I am president of the New Jersey Hound Association. I am a licensed hunter and a former trapper. I appreciate this opportunity to represent hunters and their grievances about the loss and maiming of their hunting dogs by leghold and killer-type traps.

Steel jaw leghold traps and hunting dogs don't mix. Leghold traps were barred in upland situations until the Hughes administration. Now, for no reason, they are allowed.

The leghold trap is unbelievably cruel and indiscriminate and catches any animal that touches the pan. The trap does not ask "What am I supposed to catch?"

The reason killer traps, the Conibear, are being used on land is because the Game Division permits the use of what is known to be an outrageously cruel and indiscriminate device. The same is true of the leghold trap. Because they can use this awful device, they feel free in bringing any trap into the woods.

The reason hunters are being kept out of many properties is because of the bad name of trappers and traps. Farmers and the public are associating trapping with hunting. And they are wrong. What we do is a sport. What trappers do with the leghold trap is to maim and kill wildlife and pets for pin money.

Hunters carry the brunt for this group. In addition we are losing our best dogs to leghold traps and we resent the maiming and killing that trappers do in the name of sport.

We want this trap banned throughout the state. Better yet, we want all trapping banned.

Although all kinds of animals are caught in leghold traps, we started documenting the cases of hunting dogs in 1980. From December 1980 until today, we found the following types and number of hunting dogs lost to or maimed by dangerous traps:

1. Killed: 4 Walker fox hounds in leghold traps. Three of the animals had heads bashed in by trappers.
2. 1 Walker fox hound in a 330 Conibear trap - dead.
3. One blue-tick coon hound, 1 red bone coon hound and one black and tan coon hound and one beagle. Conibear trap. Dead.

In addition, these many dogs:

DOGS THAT NEVER RETURNED

5 Walker fox hounds, 1 Beagle. Each bore a collar with name-plate, telephone number. Each dog was a "homer."

DOGS CAUGHT

2 Walker fox hounds, one Walker coon dog, one red bone coon dog, one beagle. Markings on paws were of leghold traps. Crippled.

DOGS FOUND IN LEGHOLD TRAPS AND RELEASED BY OWNERS

9 Walker fox hounds, 1 Beagle, 1 Brittany Spaniel.

WHY AND HOW DO THE DOGS GET CAUGHT?

The dogs follow the scent of foxes, raccoons and rabbits. They go by scent. And where the game goes, the dog follows. The game animal uses pathways, hedge rows, deer runs, foot paths, rabbit runs, streams, ponds, storm sewers, pipes - the works.

The leghold traps are set all over the place. Bait used for raccoons and foxes attracts all animals - both wildlife and domestic. Wherever there is a sign of a furbearing animal - regardless of the location - traps are there, too.

When the hunting dogs are trailing, they get out of your sight and hearing. A hunter cannot go through a briar patch or pond in pursuit - the dogs have to go off on their own. Because of wind or terrain or water, it is impossible to keep the dog within sight.

DOGS INJURIES: HOW THEY HAPPENED, WHAT KIND OF TRAP - EXTENT OF INJURIES

1. 4 Walker hounds: Out running the dogs. Got on the scent of a fox. The hunter had eighteen dogs, at the end of the day 3 were missing. Looked for them constantly for three weeks. At the end of three weeks, a rabbit hunter said his beagle had found one of the dogs, which still had identification tags on it, buried under leaves next to a hedge row and drainage ditch. The dog had been caught in a leghold. Its head was bashed in. The owner of the hunting dogs found the other 2 in the same condition, farther down the line.

2. The fourth walker fox hound was found dead in a leghold.

3. Another Walker fox hound in a Conibear trap: Caught in a 330 Conibear on Bella Plain State grounds. Out with a pack of dogs running foxes. All dogs returned except one. The hunter, who lives right across the street from where the animal was lost, went looking for him. Found him in the trap. Rough time getting game warden. The trapper was found and told to remove 5 additional conibears he had set in the area. Found guilty but still retained his trapper's license.

4. One blue tick coon hound. Hunter no more than ten yards away from him. Heard the trap snap. Conibear so difficult to jar open, and so much pressure is needed, that it was impossible to save the dog.

5. Hunters reported red bone coon hound, blue tick and beagle lost to Conibear traps. Found dead.

6. Five walker coon hounds. Went hunting. Dogs picked up scent and started running. Never returned. The dogs were "homers" and had ID tags and telephone number. If at all possible, they would have returned home. Or, if hit by a car, their deaths would have been reported. They were victims of traps.

7. Dogs caught and crippled: Two walker fox hounds, one walker coon dog and one red bone coon hound and one beagle.

8. Two walker fox hounds. Hunters reported finding dogs in steel-jaw traps. Both crippled.
9. One walker coon hound: Five steel-jaw traps set by a tree. Crippled.
10. One red bone coon hound: Crippled.
11. One beagle . Leg chopped off.

DOGS FOUND IN LEGHOLD TRAPS AND RELEASED

9 Walker fox hounds, one beagle, 1 Brittany Spaniel.

Statement of Hope Ryden

submitted to the

The Commerce and Industry Committee

of the

New Jersey Assembly

The Energy and Environment Committee

of the

New Jersey Senate

1983

My name is Hope Ryden and I live at 345 East 81st Street, New York City. I also consider myself a resident of New Jersey, for over the past 10 years I have spent weekends in the Ramapo Mountains on the New York/New Jersey border. Most of my outdoor activities - hiking, bird watching, etc. - take place in the New Jersey part of this property. I appreciate this opportunity to testify to the Committee on Assembly Bill No. 3207 and I commend the distinguished Chairman and the Committee for addressing the need to proscribe the leghold trap in New Jersey. This device is the most brutal and non-selective of implements used to capture animals and I urge passage of this legislation.

As a naturalist and author of several books and many articles on North American Wildlife, including BOBCAT YEAR, GOD'S DOG (on coyotes), AMERICA'S LAST WILD HORSES, and THE LITTLE DEER OF THE FLORIDA KEYS. I have spent much time in wilderness areas tracking and studying my subjects.

As a result, I have had first-hand experience with the leghold trap and its victims. In fact, at times I have found it necessary to abandon research areas as a result of the prevalence of this device and its effects on the population of animals I was trying to observe.

Before describing trapping impact on wildlife, however, I would like to tell you about my experiences with the leghold trap close to home and involving pets. Anyone who has been told that trapped animals do not suffer should have been with me one afternoon in October of 1980 while I was walking with my two dogs in the New Jersey Ramapo Mountains. For ten years I have rented a weekend cabin in a section of these mountains which provides drinking water for a number of nearby communities. This reservoir area is off-limits to outsiders for obvious reasons. The water supply must be protected from deliberate or inadvertent pollution. Trespassers are subject to prosecution and severe penalties. The six families permitted to rent existing houses in this area are carefully screened and would be held responsible for any action on their part which might jeopardize the water supply. This watershed area is particularly attractive to me as a naturalist, for raccoons, fox, deer, beavers, and birds of all kinds are protected here. Nevertheless, trappers illegally invade the area and, in recent years since the price of long haired wild furs has soared, it is hardly safe to take a walk around my cabin.

On that day in October when my dog "Zoe" was trapped, I was taking a walk, enjoying the autumn leaves on the New Jersey part of this property. Suddenly, I heard my dog scream. She is a shepherd - collie mix of unusually stoic temperament. Her veterinarian describes her as the most uncomplaining

A STATEMENT BY ROBERT K. WEISDACK

TO KEEP THE LEGHOLD TRAP IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY

SEPTEMBER 14, 1983

August 11, 1983

Dear Sirs:

As a continuing doctoral student in environmental epidemiology at the University of Pittsburgh, I have been involved in the current rabies outbreak pertaining to the public's health. After canvassing three states (Pennsylvania, Maryland, and West Virginia) and numerous rabies records of other states, the same scenario appears to be unfolding. The incidence of documented rabies cases we are viewing is only the tip of the iceberg. The fact unequivocally remains that if anyone were truly motivated or interested in ascertaining the full ramifications of this current rabies outbreak, I would highly suggest that they scrutinize the "Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Reports" from 1932 to 1983 most carefully. The facts revealed by these statistics indicate that we are only in the infancy of a possible 15-year seige, while excluding no state which possesses a dangerously high animal (herd) density. Hopefully, the trappers can continue to reduce this herd density around the parameters of any and all heavily human populated areas. This herd reduction around the parameters helps develop a protective barrier (buffer zone) making it harder for a contaminated animal to penetrate into the heart of the cities or metropolitan areas.

To maintain this protective barrier, one must allow him to use the most proficient tools available. At this current time even with the threat of a rabies epidemic, one can ill afford to procrastinate and rely upon emotions or unproven techniques in attempting to decrease herd densities. The public's health should be the first and utmost interest to all educated individuals.

My literature review addressing the control of wildlife rabies and the methods utilized is quite extensive and has displayed validity that the proficiency of the paw/leg hold trap is undisputably the only feasible tool available which will aid in reducing herd density, without endangering the life of domestic animals. Other research methods have been implemented and have failed miserably, while costing the taxpayers millions.

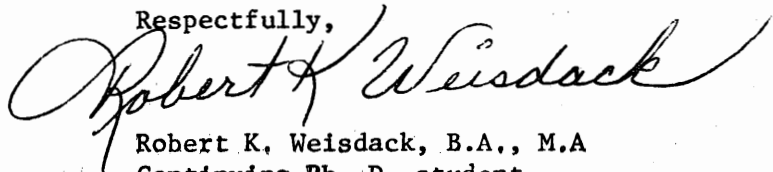
The fact remains that rabies outbreaks today originated within the confines of the wildlife population and continues to proliferate with great intensity. There is no question of how it is transmitted to the metropolitan areas. The current outbreak originated in areas where trapping (paw/leg trap) was restricted, and has spread to other areas where trapping has been limited, but could extend into residential areas.

To take away the right to use the paw/leg hold trap would be more detrimental to the public's health than one could imagine. If the paw/leg hold trap were banned, the next outbreak could possibly be within the confines of New Jersey.

I agree, rabies may never be eradicated from the wildlife population, but physicians have failed to cure all diseases. The physicians, sometimes can only lessen the severity of the disease; and this is the same role the trappers play. Physicians/surgeons are encouraged to utilize the most proficient tools available, and the trappers should be extended the same courtesy while performing a vital but thankless service for free.

Please deliberate on this information most carefully. I would hate to see New Jersey become a potential breeding ground for such a devastating disease.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert K. Weisdack". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Robert K. Weisdack, B.A., M.A
Continuing Ph. D. student

RKW:pm

The **AWA** Association, inc. Animal Welfare

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Vincentown, N.J. 08088
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VOORHEES SHELTER AND ANIMAL BIRTH CONTROL
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CLINIC
Box 113, Marlton, N.J. 08053
Phone: 424-2258

MAILING ADDRESS:
AWA, BOX #05
LINDENWOLD, NJ 08021

Whereas:

The steel jaw leghold trap is a cruel and unselective device for capturing animals, and

Whereas:

The steel jaw leghold trap is recognized as being inhumane and is banned in many Countries, States and some Counties in New Jersey, and

Whereas:

There are alternatives to the steel jaw leghold trap available and now being used in New Jersey,

Therefore be it resolved that:

The Animal Welfare Association strongly supports Bill A-3207 and any similar legislation which will prohibit the use of the steel jaw leghold trap throughout New Jersey.

Adopted September 8, 1983
The AWA Board of Directors

Charles I. Clausing
Charles I. Clausing, President

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Defenders OF WILDLIFE

Statement in Support of Legislation

To Ban Steel Jaw Leghold Traps

Hearings Before the Senate Natural Resources and Agriculture Committee

September 14, 1983

The New Jersey Senate

Defenders of Wildlife fully supports Senate Bill 1575 and its Assembly counterpart, Assembly Bill 3207, legislation to ban steel jaw leghold traps. Defenders of Wildlife is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to the protection and preservation of America's wildlife resources. On behalf of our 6,000 members and constituents in New Jersey, we urge this committee and the full New Jersey Senate to pass comprehensive legislation to ban these traps. In 1971, New Jersey Legislature established a precedent by enacting a partial ban on leghold traps. Now in 1983, the members of this committee and their colleagues should expand the law to completely ban the manufacture, sale and use of these traps which maim and kill one of the state's most precious resources, its wildlife. The Assembly has passed A. 3207, the Senate should act favorably on identical legislation.

This statement focuses on selectivity associated with leghold trap use. However, Defenders is also concerned about the injuries associated with leghold trap use.

SELECTIVITY

One of the strongest and most persuasive arguments against leghold traps is the inherent non-selectivity of the device. The accidental capture of animals of no value to the trapper is a wasteful disruption of natural ecosystems. Experienced trappers can make sets more attractive to one species or group of species (e.g. canines), but baits, scents, and set location do not assure a target catch. It is impossible to precisely determine the incidence of unwanted animals, commonly referred to as "nontargets" or "trash", since state agencies do not require trappers to report non-target incidents. Even if requirements existed, enforcement of such a provision would be virtually impossible. However, evidence that is being provided by the local groups testifying here should be ample to convince the Committee that non-target animals are frequently victims of these traps.

Trappers contend that non-target catches are rare, and that only "slob" or inexperienced trappers catch unwanted animals. Even if this were the case,

the number of "weekenders" and young, inexperienced trappers is increasing in proportion to those with experience. Stephen Kellert, a professor at the School of Forestry at Yale University, recently surveyed trappers nationwide. He found that 86.1% of trappers did most of their trapping prior to age 21; 21.5% were active in trapping from ages five through twelve. If the trend toward younger trappers and higher pelt prices continues, non-target catches, injuries, and suffering associated with the leghold trap will also increase.

George Reiger, a historian who supports trapping, noted:

Unfortunately, the capture of non-target species appears to be happening with increasingly regularity in the nation's ever expanding suburbs where callow youths set out to catch their first 'coon or muskrat -- 'just like Davy Crockett' without the least idea or training in what they are doing.

Non-target furbearers are not the only animals caught accidentally by trappers. Other types of "trash animals" are caught accidentally in traps, including dogs and cats -- often family pets and hunting dogs; birds -- such as hawks, eagles, owls, songbirds and waterfowl; deer and livestock.

STUDIES OF THE SELECTIVITY OF LEGHOLD TRAPS

Weldon Robinson (1943) compared the selectivity of the steel trap and the M-44 (coyote getter), a device using cyanide as the killing agent. He reported a take of 357 target (coyote and bobcat) animals in leghold traps, and the capture of 441 non-target animals taken including antelope, bears, skunks, badgers, foxes, raccoons, eagles, hawks, rabbits, prairie dog, porcupines, ground squirrels, turkey vultures, ravens, and domestic animals (sheep, cats, and dogs).

Non-predators are released from traps whenever practical, but some die while confined in the trap and others, being crippled, are destroyed for humanitarian reasons....(T)he number of 'furbearers' and other creatures' killed in [predator control] trapping operations is considerable. (Robinson 1943)

Beasom (1974) noted in studying on the selectivity of predator control techniques in south Texas, "More individuals and species of animals were caught with steel traps in this study than with any of the other control methods used."

Robinson (1961) maintained trapping records during predator control operations in three states: New Mexico, Colorado, and Wyoming. Records were kept to determine carnivore population trends. Coyotes and bobcats were targeted; traps were set by selected trappers of the Branch of Predator and Rodent Control of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The total capture during the three control periods was 1199, of which only 259 (22%) were coyotes and bobcats. Seventy-eight percent, a ratio of three to one, were non-target animals including skunks, badgers, raccoons, weasels, foxes, rabbits, porcupines, prairie dogs, ground squirrels, wood and kangaroo rats, pronghorn, deer, pheasants, raptors, and domestic animals (sheep, calves, dogs and cats).

Richard Randall, Defenders of Wildlife's Great Basin Field Representative, and for ten years a predator control agent for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, states:

My duties included year-round use of the leghold trap for removing predatory animals such as coyote, bobcat, bear, and fox. Fish and Wildlife rated me as an excellent trapper, promoted me to Principal District Field Assistant, later to Acting Supervisor, and included as part of my duties the training of new employees in the use of the leghold trap.

The leghold trap is inherently non-selective. It is probably the most cruel device ever invented by man, and is a direct cause of inexcusable destruction and waste of our wildlife. My trapping records show that for each target animal I trapped, about two unwanted individuals were caught. Because of trap injuries, these non-target species usually had to be destroyed (Randall 1975).

Waterfowl Entrapment

Most trapping activity in the United States occurs in aquatic habitats (in or near water), where muskrat and/or nutria are currently the most valuable furbearers species. These areas also provide vital habitat for waterfowl populations. Some researchers have examined the effects of trapping, particularly spring muskrat harvest, on waterfowl survival and production and have concluded that a problem exists. Bailey and Jones (1976), in addition to their own data, cited several studies that provide evidence of the threat that trapping poses to waterfowl. While these studies were not conducted in New Jersey, the studies are applicable because the tidal areas and freshwater swamps and marshes of New Jersey's east coast are both heavily trapped and important wintering areas, in particular for the declining population of black duck.

1. Wright (1954) suggested that muskrat trapping is a major mortality factor for black ducks (Anas rubripes) on their breeding grounds. This species is suffering significant, longterm declines from various factors already, such that the Fish and Wildlife Service has reduced season dates and/or bag limits this year.
2. A study conducted in Maine by Gashwiler (1949) found a total kill of approximately 1,945 ducks during the 1946 trapping season. An additional 2,220 ducks actively involved in breeding activities were injured in the traps.
3. Mendall (1958) considered muskrat trapping to be the prime cause of accidental mortality to breeding ring-necked ducks (Aythya collaris) in the northeast.
4. Stout (1976) analyzed continental band recoveries from waterfowl caught by devices other than banding traps and attributed 69% of spring recoveries to muskrat trapping.

The usual trapping technique in Bailey and Jones' study used steeljawed traps set on trails near the water which were also loafing sites for waterfowl. From the estimated population of 144 pairs of mallards on the study area, 16 mallards (including 15 females) were trapped according to trappers in the area. The authors noted that trappers tended to report only the marked females (hens that had been hatched in captivity, marked, and released into the wild), and not male or wild (and therefore unmarked), female mallards. Trappers were reluctant to admit having taken ducks in traps because "many felt that data gathered in the survey would be detrimental to trapping interests." The 15 hens that were lost through trap capture represented 10.4% of the total female breeding population on the study area. Bailey and Jones concluded:

Hens killed or crippled by muskrat trapping lower the production potential of a breeding population. We could not determine the number of hens released unharmed since internal injuries and other effects of a trapping experience were unknown. Increased duck production on remaining habitat in this region will be necessary to maintain mallard populations in the future, and avoidable losses of breeding stock would seem unacceptable to waterfowl management.

Entrapment of Domestic Pets

Dogs and cats are attracted to baits and scents used in trap sets to lure wild animals. Some trappers release these animals to find their own way home, others may attempt to return the animal to its owner. Still other trappers, frustrated by the non-target catch that perhaps prevented a valuable one, will kill the animal.

Trapping as Furbearer Management

Trappers defend the use of leghold traps as "wise management tools" but not only are leghold traps "unwise," their use in the field is dictated by market considerations first, management second. Trappers maintain that, by removing the annual surplus, they remove the number of individuals in a trapped area that would perish during the critical period. "They would only die anyway," is heard in the trappers' own defense. However, the effects of the annual removal of tons of biomass from the natural ecosystem (Favre and Olsen 1982) or the changes which trapping imparts on the age structure and balance of a natural population are still unknown.

Ironically, trapping may actually result in the increase of wildlife; it may actually cause overpopulation problems, in contradiction to trappers' claims that they provide a service in preventing furbearer overpopulation. For example, there is an inverse relationship between reduction of a population and the number of young produced.

If a population is not harvested, all growth and recruitment are balanced by natural mortality and the average growth rate of the population is zero. Harvesting decreases the population size, but in most cases the reduction in population size results in an increase in the growth rate of the population.

An increase in growth rate occurs because the lower density reduces competition among the remaining members of the population which results in: 1) greater rate of reproduction, 2) a greater growth rate of individuals in the population, or 3) a reduced rate of natural mortality. Dixon and Swift (1980)

Arguments that leghold traps are essential wildlife management tools do not stand up under rational, scientific scrutiny. New Jersey has already taken a step by partially banning these traps. Now, it is time to take an even larger step. The time has come for the New Jersey Legislature to serve as an even stronger model for other states by enacting into law this progressive wildlife protection.

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Statement of Joyce Brothers, Ph.D.

Psychologist

submitted to

The Commerce and Industry Committee

of the

New Jersey Assembly

and

The Energy and Environment Committee

of the

New Jersey Senate

1983

As a resident of New Jersey, I appreciate this opportunity to express my support of A.3207-S.1575 to ban the manufacture, sale and use of the steel-jawed leghold trap throughout the state.

While others here today will document the cruelty and nonselectivity of the device, I will confine my comments to the possible effects of the leghold trap on the people who use it.

I believe that use of the leghold trap constitutes both extreme cruelty to animals and a concomitant desensitization of trappers to the suffering of other sentient beings. Shackled and in pain, the trapped animal is subjected to any number of traumas and injuries. The trapper is witness to this agony, and proceeds to compound it by bludgeoning, drowning or breaking the back of his captive prey.

It is most alarming that trappers profess to enjoy this experience, and that the New Jersey Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife promotes trapping as a "wholesome form of outdoor recreation."

Of even greater concern from my perspective is that the bulk of trappers are youngsters of an impressionable age; during the years when values which last a lifetime are formed, these youngsters routinely engage in brutalizing animals.

Cruelty to animals is one of the criteria used to identify a severely disturbed child. It can be a manifestation of a lack of empathy or compassion for the pain of others, and may also be indicative of destructive behavior which might be directed toward other human beings.

Dr. Joyce Brothers
Statement: Leghold Trap
January, 1983

Page 2.

It is my opinion that cruelty to animals is a behavior which should be discouraged or prevented, especially - as in the case of the leghold trap - when the cruelty is an avoidable one.

For the sake of our children as well as our wildlife, I urge New Jersey legislators to pass into law A.3.207-S.1575 which will ban the manufacture, sale and use of a torturous device.

Statement of John Kirsch, Ph.D.
Associate Curator of Mammalogy
Museum of Comparative Zoology
Harvard University

submitted to

The Commerce and Industry Committee
of the New Jersey Assembly

The Energy and Environment Committee
of the New Jersey Senate

1983

Friends of Animals has asked me to speak, as a professional mammalogist, to three questions: First, do animals feel pain? Second: Is trapping necessary to control animal populations? And third: Must we trap mammals to prevent the spread of disease? I think we are in danger of confusing the issue of whether trapping should be permitted with how it may be carried out, and I would be dishonest if I did not say that there are persuasive scientific, economic and even conservationist reasons in favor of trapping. My personal concern is rather with the manner in which it is done. Nevertheless, the two issues are related, as I shall indicate.

On the question of whether animals feel pain, of course they do: Any animal that did not would not live very long, would be unlikely to leave offspring, and would therefore be most unfit! Moreover, the nervous structures for sensing and responding to pain in other animals are very similar to our own. But, it may be argued, responding to pain and being aware of it are two different things. Are animals aware? That is the crucial question when it comes to deciding if we should allow certain kinds of experiments or traps. Of course it is not even easy to be sure that another person is aware, but we believe so because he or she tells us about it; now that we have begun to teach chimpanzees and gorillas to use human language, they too are telling us how they feel - even lying to escape punishment for wrongdoing - and it is difficult to maintain any longer that awareness is a special characteristic of human beings. Again, given the very similar biological structure and functioning of all mammals, it would be astonishing if other species were also not aware. Thus, I see no reason to doubt that animals are every bit as capable of feeling pain, and of suffering, as are human beings. Therefore, in my opinion, we would need the strongest possible justification for inflicting pain on them.

And this is the connection to the second question: Is trapping necessary to control populations? It is often argued that trapping is required to prevent the continued increase in animal numbers, with the attendant economic and other threats to ourselves; and hence that any means justifies this end - including the use of an unquestionably painful, if efficient, trap like the leghold. I would have to argue that trapping is ineffective in controlling natural populations, because typically wild animal populations are effectively regulated by natural factors, including

their own density, and do not go on increasing forever. Beginning from a few individuals, those populations may grow only very slowly for a time, but past a critical number begin to increase very rapidly. They do this for several reasons, some biological and some simply mathematical: It is a bit like a compound interest situation where you are being paid several hundred percent a year. Inevitably, the fast rate of increase ceases, and the population reaches a fairly stable number, most obviously because food and shelter are limited but also because the bigger a population the more liable are its members to predation. Again, this is a general pattern and there are exceptions: Bigger animals seem able to maintain a stable population size, but populations of little mammals such as meadow mice and lemmings are notorious for overshooting the mark every few years and then descending to quite low levels. But these populations recover quite swiftly, and they do so because when they are reduced in numbers the mechanisms for rapid increase take over again. It is clear that reducing a population by trapping just forces it back into the fast-growth phase.

The resilience of wild populations makes it very difficult to argue for a total ban on trapping, but it also means that it is nearly impossible to depress permanently a population by means of trapping. Nothing short of pushing the population down to the brink of extinction, or extensive habitat destruction, will achieve that end - and I hope no one is arguing in favor of those alternatives today. Once again, trapping does not control populations. Thus, we can't justify using the leghold trap because it won't do the job any more than will another sort of trap.

Characteristics of population growth also affect the transmission of diseases. If by trapping we reduce populations to the size where they will grow quickly

then a lot of immature and presumably susceptible animals will enter the population each year. This would increase the likelihood of transmission by youngsters that have not had a chance to become immune. Extensive trapping may therefore aggravate rather than alleviate the spread of disease.

In conclusion, populations usually are naturally regulated and do not go on increasing forever. Normally trapping will not provide permanent control of numbers, or even put a brake on the spread of disease. In the face of these conclusions, and knowing that animals are capable of suffering, we are scarcely justified in continuing to use a method of trapping that undoubtedly inflicts considerable pain.

Statement of Samuel M. Peacock, Jr., M.D.

Associate Professor of Neurophysiology
Department of Psychology and Human Behavior
Thomas Jefferson University School of Medicine

Assistant Professor of Neurophysiology
Department of Psychiatry
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Former Senior Medical Research Scientist
Neurophysiology
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submitted to

The Commerce and Industry Committee

of the New Jersey Assembly

The Energy and Environment Committee

of the New Jersey Senate.

1983

The scientific evidence that animals feel and perceive pain is really quite overwhelming. Over the last fifty years hundreds of federally funded research grants have been awarded to investigators in comparative neuroanatomy and neurophysiology for the purpose of studying mammalian sensory systems which are essentially identical to those of man.

This evidence can be briefly summarized as follows:

1. All mammals including man have the same anatomical and physiological mechanisms for pain perception. Pain receptors are located all over the body feeding their sensory impulses into the central nervous system via the peripheral nerves to the spinal cord. Here they connect with various afferent pathways and

ascend to the brain stem, thalamus, and cerebral cortex.

2. By stimulating pain receptors and recording the electrical activity of the brain in response to this stimulation, it has been shown that all parts of the body are represented in the cerebral cortex of all mammals. The process of localizing areas of the brain in which the body parts are represented is known as cortical mapping. This has been worked out for a wide variety of species as well as man. All sensory modalities including pain, temperature, vibration, hearing, vision, etc., are so represented in areas of the cerebral cortex.

3. Behavioral studies have utilized pain as a means of conditioning animals in a variety of experimental studies and in learning situations. All of this work is based on the animal's attempt to avoid pain.

4. Studies in stress have been extensive and have demonstrated that all mammals including man respond to stress with identical physiological mechanisms, including changes of heart rate, blood pressure, adrenal secretions, etc.

5. The behavioral manifestations of pain and stress differ widely between species and between individuals within a species. Pain can produce a state of shock in both man and beast or it can produce violent panic and rage. It can also produce a state of helplessness and resignation as shown in conditioned avoidance experiments in which the animal is placed in the situation where it can no longer avoid the painful stimulus.

6. All mammals possess the same sensory mechanisms. Although pain receptors are not as apparent as eyes and ears, their presence is a matter of scientific fact and to propose a difference in function for them in animals as compared to man is to deny the validity of a vast amount of scientific knowledge. No one would say that an animal cannot see or hear.

7. Surely anyone who has ever stepped on a puppy dog's tail knows that that puppy felt pain!

The leghold trap is a primitive, uncivilized method of trapping animals. It inflicts maximal pain for it not only involves the superficial pain receptors of the skin and muscle but also the deep receptors of tendon and bone. Struggling intensifies this stimulation and the animal quickly learns this but the pain remains and produces maximal stress for long periods of time including at best a state of helplessness or shock not to be confused with sleep except by the most primitive observer.

Where money is involved man has an infinite capacity to rationalize and justify his behavior. It is impossible for me to understand how our civilization and culture can tolerate the use of the leghold trap. I strongly urge the passage of A. 3207 S-1575 to ban the manufacture, sale and use of the leghold trap. This is the very least we can do.

Office of the President
Alice Herrington

REPORT ON TRAPPER TRAINING COURSE CONDUCTED BY THE NEW JERSEY DIVISION
OF FISH, GAME AND WILDLIFE
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Prepared by: Susan Russell, education director, Friends of Animals, Inc.

Preface

In an attempt to block legislation banning the leghold trap in New Jersey, the Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife introduced a mandatory training program. The division, whose salaries are paid by trapping license fee revenues, contends that trained trappers are more humane and selective trappers, therefore, there is no need for proscriptive legislation.

Indeed, an early (1977) statement by the division referred to the courses as a "political cushion" for legislators. Further, trapper training courses serve as a public relations tool to make trapping more palatable to the media and the public.

The leghold trap has been prohibited by 63 countries and Canada's British Columbia as excessively cruel and non-selective. These properties are inherent and universal: They do not change with state or national borders and cannot be changed by years of trapper training, let alone a few hours. The problem to be addressed is trapping and traps used to catch furbearers. Leghold trapping and "humane and selective" are mutually exclusive.

In order to report on the efficacy and legitimacy of courses that are presented as a panacea, it was necessary that I take the course.

My observations of the trapper training course follow.

Date of Course: November 5th and 7th, 1982

Location: Colliers Mills Wildlife Management Area, Colliers Mills, NJ

Instructor: Robert Byrne, trapper training coordinator

Additional Instructors: conservation officer
NJ state wildlife control officer
Fred Gimble, president, Central Jersey Furtakers Association
Joe Pappa, vice-president, Central Jersey Furtakers Association
Gary Himmel, member, Central Jersey Furtakers Association

Time Frame: Friday evening, 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Sunday, 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
12:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

"Textbooks": Without exception, information given to the class was published or written by vested interests in trapping:

- "Trapping and Conservation" pamphlet published by the National Wildlife Federation, an organization largely comprised of local hunting and trapping clubs, and printed for distribution by the Woodstream Corporation, our nation's largest manufacturer of steel-jawed leghold traps.
- "Placing American Wildlife Management in Perspective" by the New Jersey Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife. Division personnel's salaries are a direct function of trapping license fee revenues.
- "Trapping and Wildlife Management" by the Woodstream Corporation, our nation's leading manufacturer of steel-jaw traps.
- "Pennsylvania Trapper Training Guide" by the Pennsylvania Game Commission. Same situation as New Jersey - game agency personnel paid by license revenues.
- "Compendium of Hunting and Trapping Laws - 1982-83" issued by the New Jersey Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife.
- Flyers: "Match your target to a Woodstream Trap" by the Woodstream Corporation and "How to make your own box trap" by the New Jersey Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife.

Students: About 24. Excluding Elizabeth McMahon, 5 other adults and me, the rest of the class appeared to be between the ages of 8 to 18 years of age, with a preponderance of adolescents. Since the legal age for trapping is 12 years (14 years for the leghold trap), those who appeared to be eight years old were either dwarfs or underage.

OBSERVATIONS

FRIDAY EVENING

On Friday evening, Mr. Byrne, the trapper training coordinator and a recreational trapper, focused on wildlife management theories supportive of trapping. Mr. Byrne virtually ignored the findings of the National Academy of Sciences, among others, that trapping is ineffective as a means of wildlife disease control and should be abolished. The students were told that "stockpiling doesn't work" and that "we must trap animals to control disease."

In contradiction of his original statements, the trapper training coordinator later stated -several times - that trapping does not control or limit wildlife populations, and that trappers rarely catch diseased animals. Alarmingly, none of the students questioned this reversal.

A few quotes:

(In reference to the muskrat, the animal trappers claim must be trapped to be controlled) - "It is prolific and has a 70 to 80 percent mortality rate every year. Is trapping a limiting factor? No."

Later: "Direct harvesting has no impact on that animal at all."

The salient fact that trappers don't catch diseased animals was revealed on Sunday afternoon. When a child asked Mr. Byrne what to do if he trapped a diseased furbearer, Byrne replied: "You don't catch diseased animals; they don't get around very much. That's rare."

The discussion of furbearer population dynamics ended with Mr. Byrne comparing furbearers to tomatoes and asking students if they would pick tomatoes in the summer or winter.

Our sojourn into "wildlife education" was just as primitive, with emphasis on where and how to trap the animal (or "tomato") and what the pelt was worth. As Mr. Byrne began to discuss land and water associated furbearers, there was no mention of the roles animals play in the ecosystem, and some descriptions of furbearers were very much at odds with what is known about the species. For example, the beaver was not a favorite of Mr. Byrne's: "Walt Disney did a great public relations job with this one. Beavers are vicious, not playful and nasty."

This revelation comes as a great shock to the thousands of beaver enthusiasts throughout the country to whom the beaver's resourcefulness, intelligence and even humor is a constant source of enjoyment and study. In addition, the beaver's ability to create its own ecosystem, from which many species of animal and plant life benefit, was not even mentioned. From this perverse definition of the animal, one must assume that Mr. Byrne's only contact with beavers has been while he was trying to kill them for their skins.

The bobcat, an extirpated species in New Jersey, was discussed as a furbearer. Mr. Byrne said that "there may be opportunities to hunt the animal in the future." This information was most interesting, since the "re-stocking" of the bobcat in New Jersey is being touted as bobcat restoration and Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife officials claim there will be no hunting of the species.

Discussed trapping techniques evolved around getting the pelt, thus how to trap the animal so it has no chance of escaping. Raccoons were cited as a particular problem because they fight the trap, and do damage to themselves and, "more importantly," the pelt. When a student asked about cases of raccoons chewing off their paws in an effort to escape ("wring off"), Mr. Byrne, biologist, replied:

The raccoon is fighting against the trap, not pain. The leg is numb, and it is really gnawing on the trap and catching its fingers. A trapper with no foot damage [to the raccoon] is a skilled trapper. If you stay with trapping for a while, you'll have that skill.

Mr. Byrne's assertion that the raccoon feels no pain is an appallingly ignorant one that flouts scientific documentation of pain perception and sensory mechanisms in mammals. The raccoon's paw, for example, has powers of tactile discrimination proved to be of the same order as human tactile discrimination.

Further, his statement that "a trapper with no foot damage is a skilled trapper" is an unwitting indictment of trapping in general, for 86% of trappers are below the age of twenty years, with a preponderance of adolescents. Thus, most trappers are youngsters and adolescents who do not "stay with trapping" very long. Since the trapper drop out rate is highest among the young, the activity is marked by a rapid turnover: unskilled, young trappers are simply replaced by more unskilled young trappers.

At this point, Mr. Byrne began discussing "humane and selective" trapping. The words were given lip service; methods of trapping which were touted as "humane" were coincidentally justified by assuring the trapper his pelt.

One must assume that this is the division's idea of "humane and selective" trapping:

A good trapper is selective. Otherwise, he is inefficient and this causes him problems. If you catch a dog, the issue will be blown up by animal groups and you'll be on the front page of the newspaper.

For this reason, trappers were advised not to use leghold traps in "developed" areas.

In any event, the capture of a pet dog or cat was blamed squarely on the pet owner: "Pets are the owners' responsibility. But you'll be the bad guy."

Other insights: "Don't use the leghold trap in somebody's backyard. If you trap somebody's dog or cat, what do you got? You got problems."

In discussing "humane and selective" trapping, Mr. Byrne forgot to mention the many species of wildlife, such as bald and golden eagles, deer and owls that fall victim to leghold traps and are discarded as "trash."

His final thought on selective trapping: "If you understand their behavior [wildlife], you'll make money."

At this point, Mr. Byrne introduced a conservation officer who read a few sentences from the New Jersey Compendium of Hunting and Trapping Laws.

The shooting of trap victims was discussed. Mr. Byrne asked how many in the room were familiar with rifles. Only a few raised their hands. In order to shoot trap victims, the trappers would have to be 18 years of age. In addition, they would have to take another course conducted by the division to enable them to legally use a .22 short. Since most trappers in the room were under 18 years of age, shooting was a moot point. This left the methods of clubbing, drowning, suffocation and breaking the back or neck of the trap victim to most of the children in the room. This did not seem to bother them.

Mr. Byrne said that the reason hunting and trapping laws exist is that "there will be enough for everybody."

The evening was drawing to a close. Mr. Byrne asked if there were any questions. There were very few questions from prospective trappers; most were about money.

Mr. Byrne said that trapping was primarily of "recreational benefit." He then said that "trappers are not in it for the money, because you can make more money pumping gas."

The first part of the course ended with Byrne saying that those who planned to use box traps could dig a hole for them ahead of the season and bait the area. When the conservation officer countered that this might be illegal, Byrne said there was no law "against setting them up." The conservation officer said that Mr. Byrne's position would not hold up in court, to which Mr. Byrne replied, "lots of people do it."

Thus, the evening ended with Robert Byrne, trapper training coordinator, advising trappers to break the law.

SUNDAY - IN THE FIELD

We assembled in the classroom at 9:30 a.m. Mr. Byrne introduced us to a wildlife control officer who told us about the dyeing and waxing of traps. Traps dyed a dark color are easier to camouflage than traps which retain a steel glint, we were told. Waxing protects traps and keeps them operating smoothly.

We were briefly informed about trapping equipment: drags, stakes, chains, wire, lures, baits and diving traps for muskrats. Students were advised that they could make a box trap at home for \$10 to \$15, and that home-made box traps could easily catch raccoons, and that you could "catch a bunch of rats [muskrats] in a diving trap."

That box traps can be made at home, and "easily catch" raccoons should be noted, since the division of fish and game lobbies for leghold traps by declaring

that box traps are "prohibitively expensive" and "not efficient."

For public relations reasons, namely that the public tends to get upset when a leghold trapped animal is discovered in its midst, trappers were again reminded to desist in using the leghold in highly-developed areas, and were told that the box trap would prove just as "efficient" in capturing furbearers.

Wires, chains, drags and other trapping equipment are used to make it virtually impossible for a trapped animal to become free of the trap. Because raccoons ("coons") fight the trap, it was advised to "stake them in close" or to use a drag, which is a piece of wood "at least 2 pounds - no more than 4 or 5 feet long attached to the leghold by a chain." This prevents pelt loss, we were told, because the animal "can only move about 20 feet or so and doesn't panic as much." As an afterthought, Mr. Byrne added that he thought this technique was "humane," with no further explanation. As in other cases where the word "humane" was mouthed, the true justification was in not losing the pelt.

We were advised by Joe Pappa, vice-president of the Central Jersey Furtakers Association, that one needs a good deal of brush in the area to use a drag, otherwise the animal "will go with the trap and drag and you'll never find it." He said that on a few occasions, "it took a long time to find the thing [fox], which was only 50 feet away from where I put the trap."

Since Mr. Pappa was supposed to be an expert trapper, one can only imagine what goes on during trapping seasons in which most of the participants are amateurs.

In addition, the wildlife control officer advised "drowning" (sic) for raccoons. One method recommended was affixing a weight (rock) to the leghold

trap set on a bank or near watering areas raccoons frequent. Once trapped, the raccoon's instinct is to dive deeper, ostensibly away from the trap. But, as the officer pointed out with a big grin, the weight pulls the animal down and prevents it from reaching the surface.

Several students seemed to find this method amusing.

Students were advised to use an extra long stake in sandy soil - about 18 to 20 inches - or the animal will pull out and travel with the leghold and stake. Again, the students found this possibility a real rib-tickler.

"'Coons have a way of pulling out there like it was nothing," said the control officer, who seemed mildly retarded.

The control officer mentioned that improperly set traps, including one illustrated on the Woodstream flyer, would capture "non-target" animals. He said a canal set or a trap set in a runway would capture beaver and otter (populations for these species are low, but the New Jersey Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife permits them to be trapped on a "regulated" basis) and waterfowl such as ducks. Later in the day, Fred Gimble, president of the Central Jersey Furtakers Association, showed us how to use a runway set. Since no one else asked the obvious question, I asked Mr. Gimble about catching non-target furbearers, such as ducks. He seemed annoyed and said, "What will you catch? Anything you catch will be a furbearer."

"You guys go ahead and get some experience," were the control officer's parting words.

Mr. Byrne mentioned that "only 600-700 trappers in the state were skilled enough to catch foxes," which leaves over 3,000 unskilled, young trappers.

With levity Mr. Byrne announced that we were going to the main field (outside of the concrete room where the classes were held). About 20 dead raccoons and opossums were strewn on the lawn. Within my field of vision, several prospective "humane and selective" young trappers kicked the dead animals. Their behavior brought to mind Dr. Joyce Brothers' warning that exposure to the horrors of trapping evokes a sadistic response.

As we gathered about the carcasses, Mr. Byrne began to tell us how to "dispatch" the trap victims.

This is where our presence caused the course to be cleaned up and greatly altered as compared to other trapping courses conducted by the division. There had recently been a furor over the division's intent to bring trapper training into public school curricula. The public's reaction to methods used to kill furbearers was one of horror. The division was not successful in its effort.

So, Byrne omitted stomping and suffocating furbearers and breaking the necks and backs of animals by standing on a stake placed on the neck of the victim and jerking the body upward. It is ironic that Mr. Byrne did not cover these methods, for they are the most commonly used.

The students were told to "drownd" (sic) the animals. Drowning a trap victim (using a water set or water) assures the trapper his prey, and the fur is not damaged.

Steering away from the stake and suffocation methods normally used, Byrne said that the trapper should use water whenever possible. He suggested clubbing the animal, then submerging its head in water if a stream or other water

source is near the trapping site. This was described as "humane" with no further comment.

Next, an almost totally unused method of killing furbearers was mentioned. Mr. Burne said that a humane option was shooting the animal between the eyes and ears. This method is the least popular of ways to kill furbearers, because bullets damage the fur. Nonetheless, and largely for our benefit, Mr. Byrne mentioned shooting furbearers and recommended that foxes be shot in the chest from the distance of one foot. Mr. Byrne said that the trapper must lie down to do this. That he was addressing a group largely comprised of adolescents who were years away from legally operating a .22 seemed extraneous.

When a young trapper asked what those under 18 year of age could do, Mr. Byrne replied, "You club it." He went on to say that the best way to do this was to hit the animal between the eyes or behind the brain. He used a small garden trowel to illustrate clubbing the dead opossum. The Pennsylvania Trapper's Guide we were given also recommended a long-handled garden trowel. This was described as "humane."

He said a "skilled" trapper could kill an animal with one blow. He did not volunteer how many blows are needed when a trapper is learning; and no one asked.

Another trapper, one of the few adults, asked what to do in "those towns where guns are banned [in the interests of public safety]." Byrne replied, "If you want to fight that [ordinances], there are plenty of groups to back you up. They have lawyers and that sort of thing."

The groups were not named.

I asked Byrne if the dead animals had been trapped. He replied, "Yes." I then asked, "How were they killed?" Byrne responded, "I don't know." When I queried about one animal in particular that looked badly beaten, Byrne

answered, "They do bleed, you know."

He then covered releasing non-target animals. The attitude here was one of annoyance. He said that "free-ranging" dogs were the pet owner's responsibility - not a trapper's - and a somewhat curious remark, "The trapper has to make a decision about whether or not he wants that dog back in his trap," accompanied by meaningful glances at the trappers, was repeated twice.

Again, Mr. Byrne's perception of "non-target" species did not include other wildlife species, possibly because occurrences of trapped bald eagles and deer do not receive as much press as those of trapped pets, and are easily concealed.

Byrne recommended releasing the dog with a hog snare, a rather long implement I cannot see too many trappers purchasing or using. He also suggested taking the animal to the dog warden.

He did not mention what to do if the animal was badly injured. Such was the man's grasp of "humane."

We broke for lunch.

In the afternoon, the wildlife control officer demonstrated how to set a leghold trap (dirt set) in an open field. We were later told by a volunteer trapper that the open field set was a faulty one because few animals cross an open field, and those that do tend to be non-target individuals.

The control officer told trappers to wear gloves and bring a kneeling pad in order to leave no human scent.

At this point, we were placed in the hands of the vice-president and president of the Central Jersey Furtakers Association. Mr. Gimble, the president, said a few words. We then broke into two groups: one to learn the rudimentary

leghold sets on land and the other conibear and leghold traps set in water. The time spent in each group was about 15 to 20 minutes.

For leghold traps set on land, we were told we could build a "cubby" set, a cute name for legholds hidden by a primitive structure of small tree limbs or rocks, or a dirt set, which is simply a leghold trap set in a hole and camouflaged with sifted dirt and leaves.

Mr. Pappa asked our group why no one was asking questions. "Are you all expert trappers?" he queried. The assorted youngsters, and the few adults, for that matter, showed no interest in the "challenge" of trapping that is so often used to justify trapping as a "sport." The only times their interest was engaged was when the instructors were speaking of killing the furbearers or the current going rates for pelts.

Elizabeth McMahon, chairman of the NJCA's wildlife committee, and I chose a dirt set. Although we were constantly surrounded by either Mr. Pappa, the wildlife control officer or Mr. Byrne (sometimes all three and bordering on cruel and unusual scrutiny), the inspections of other trappers were cursory.

We then switched to water sets using conibear and leghold traps. Mr. Gimble explained how to catch prey (beaver) with legholds. Setting the leghold near the bank of the marsh, he attached the trap to a long length of wire. He proceeded to drive a series of stakes (tree limbs), each a few feet farther out from the bank than the one preceding it, and each a few feet apart. He explained how the beaver, once trapped, will dive away from the bank toward deeper water. With the wire attached to the trap, he said, the beaver will panic and become entwined around one of the stakes. At this point, Mr. Gimble said, "You got him. You got him then. No way he can get out of this - he does himself in." Mr. Gimble was smiling, and seemed quite proud.

I interrupted this reverie to ask how long it took the animal to drown (I had waited for someone else to ask, but they had not). Mr. Gimble paused and replied, "One minute." Here was yet another dissemblance, for it is widely-known that beavers can hold their breath for up to 20 minutes and muskrats for almost 15. Even the Pennsylvania Trapper Training Guide we were issued said that beavers stay "submerged" for 10 minutes.

Mr. Gimble demonstrated how to set conibear traps, using a runway set. Stressing that the trap was submerged in water assures the trapper that other trappers will not steal his prey, a phenomenon which must be quite prevalent, judging from the frequency of warnings on the subject. A submerged trap was also deemed as being "selective."

This time, we were asked by Mr. Gimble why no one was asking questions. "Do you know what you are doing?" he asked, somewhat skeptically.

We had our choice of setting a conibear or leghold in water. We chose a conibear propped up by tree limbs and set in a runway. After 15 minutes, everyone returned to the classroom. Out of a broad selection of trapping sets, the participants had tried but two. It was assumed that trappers try the others on their own during the trapping season.

We returned to the concrete one-room building to find the raccoon and opossum carcasses hung from the porch ceiling by their hind legs. This sight encouraged joking among the trappers.

Mr. Pappa demonstrated how to skin a raccoon. Finally, questions were being asked. They were about money and the condition of pelts.

All furs, we were told, except for beaver, are "cased." The skin is removed from the animal by slitting the fur from one hind leg to the other and through a succession of other moves, pulling the hide over the head like

a sweater. The bone must be pulled out of the tail.

Mr. Pappa told us that the animals were "road kills." Mr. Byrne, who had informed us that the animals had been trapped, said, "No, they were trapped last spring and kept in the freezer." This was apparently an inside joke, because Mr. Pappa laughed and said, "In that case, we've come a long way."

Mr. Byrne's earlier statement that the animals were trapped had raised the questions of where, when and by whom. The legal trapping season had not yet started.

Byrne remarked that the 20 animals and skins were "junk" and could not be used.

While skinning, the students joked. The butts of the jokes were the dead animals. A sample: "Who's for 'possum stew?" to which a rotund youngster replied, "Not this piece of crap."

Amid demeaning epithets, the skinned bodies - which appeared shockingly meager after being stripped of their furs - were tossed in a large pile. The sound of skulls hitting together sounded like so many soda bottles.

The bodies were discarded as trash.

We went into the classroom, where Mr. Gimble spoke to us about his organization. "Trapping is a loner's sport," he said, "so we join clubs to sell our pelts for the best price. We also fight anti-trap legislation and that nonsense there." He asked the kids to join.

I was not permitted to take the test because, according to Byrne, I had not skinned and fleshed. I asked Byrne why other students (in previous courses) had gotten their certificates without skinning. He said he didn't know. And then he said, "I teach respect for the entire animal - and skinning is a part of it."

I found this comment ludicrous in light of the day's experiences - a day in which I heard animals referred to as "junk," "thing" and "crap,"; a day in which the terror of a drowning raccoon was a source of humor; a day in which the overall purpose of the course was repugnant.

The students took the open-book test, then exchanged papers for grading. Since I did not take the test, I observed Mr. Byrne signing all the certificates before the test was over.

Everyone received their trapping certificates except me. I feel this is a curious distinction, since before my enrollment in the course it appeared as easy to get a trapping certificate as it is to scratch one's elbow. To my knowledge, no one has ever failed the New Jersey trapper training course. It appears strange that the one person not granted a certificate is an officer of Friends of Animals, Inc. It may, in fact, attest to my sanity.

SUMMARY

While strongly opposed to trapping, the simplistic nature of the course, which was saturated with misinformation, inaccuracies and contradictions, startled me.

The characteristics of the trappers I was around - as manifested by their remarks and actions - indicated a complete lack of regard for, indeed, an unawareness of animal suffering and a contemptuous attitude toward the animals whose skins they sell. These youngsters were indisputable proof of Dr. Joyce Brothers' and child educators' analyses that cruelty to animals desensitizes the perpetrator.

It is my opinion that the trapper training course, offered by the Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife as an "alternative" to banning the leghold trap, is nothing more than the political cushion they had hoped it would be. The course, the caliber of instructors, and the subject matter are an embarrassment to the state.

As the trapping season starts, one shudders to think of what raccoons, beavers, otters, foxes, opossums and other animals are enduring at the hands of kids who could not resist kicking the dead animals used in the course. With the imprimatur of the state, these school boy trappers are armed with garden trowels, inhumane traps, rocks, clubs, axes or anything else they can think of in the pursuit of this perverse recreation. It is a chilling thought.

FOR INCLUSION IN THE
RECORD FOR HEARING ON
BILL A-3207 ON THE LEG-HELD TRAP
THANK YOU
George D. Whitney

George D. Whitney
Doctor of Veterinary Medicine
Oakwood Road
Orange, Connecticut 06477

Men and women of the New Jersey Senate, my name is George D. Whitney. I am from Orange, CT and I thank you for the opportunity to be heard.

A few words about what I am not seems apropos. I have never joined any humane group; I am not against animal experimentation; I am not against hunting and fishing; I am not a hearts and flowers person.

I have been a companion animal veterinarian in my town with a special interest in exotic animals and native wild-life for 38 years. I am a past president of the Connecticut Veterinary Medical Association. I am an ex-trapper and appear before you at my own expense to speak up against the use of the steel jawed leghold trap.

Three years ago Mrs. Whitney and I offered \$1,000 to anyone who could suggest anything in nature or by the hand of man to equal the cruelty of the leghold trap in mammals. There have been four serious requests: a gang-raping incident; a nun in New York City who had crosses cut in her flesh by thugs; war; and a mole trap. None was considered to come close to the suffering of countless thousands of fur-bearing animals caught in steel traps at any one moment in the trapping season.

You will hear a great deal of window dressing on this subject, all of which must take a back seat to the one and only central issue.

I would urge you to make a mental note of the fact that those who will appear in favor of this device almost without exception have a financial interest. Those who appear against it do so on moral grounds with no financial gain.

A few words about the window dressing.

Trappers will snap a woodchuck-size trap on their fingers and claim there is no pain involved. A trap comparable to one to hold a man would be a bear trap or having one's hand slammed in a car door. No trapper will voluntarily expose himself to either.

More window dressing -- if a trap is properly set by an experienced trapper there will be no or a minimum of pain for the creature to be trapped. I doubt anyone on this committee can conceive of a person slamming a door on your hand with enough finesse that it will not cause excruciating pain.

Traps are necessary to control animal population is more window dressing. Nature has controlled excess population with the survival of the fittest for longer than man's history. State people spending taxpayers' money to appear before you will claim they need the trappers to control populations but as far as I can determine the state game people have no liaison with trappers to tell them where they should trap to control excess populations and they never have had.

These people and the National Wildlife Federation will tell you starvation and disease are more painful than 24 hours

in a leghold trap. This is just not so. The survivors of the Holocaust claim they suffered no pain in starvation and most of us in this room have gone without food while sick with no pain. Are animals that hibernate in pain? Most disease of wildlife is without pain.

More window dressing is the need of traps to control diseases such as rabies. Adult animals are trapped heavily; since many adults have an immunity to diseases such as rabies the void in nature will be filled with young, more susceptible individuals resulting in an increase in a disease such as rabies than had no trapping taken place. This is the opinion of the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta and of a committee of the National Science Foundation.

It would not be fair for me to take more time to address the window dressing. The central issue is the ever-increasing mountain of evidence indicating that animals experience pain as you and I do. Thus, an animal in a trap or our hand slammed in a car door are comparable and either situation would inflict excruciating pain. To inflict excruciating pain is Webster's definition of torture.

So, the central issue is have the people of the great State of New Jersey with the mounting evidence reached a point where they believe they should terminate this torture or not. Charles Darwin thought it should be eliminated in his day. At least 64 countries have outlawed it, countries such as Norway, Sweden, Denmark, West Germany, Britain, Israel, all of which encourage hunting incidentally.

When you cast your vote it comes down to a simple non-controversial issue. You either believe in or condone torture

or you don't. If you can vote in favor of the leghold trap to be consistent you should favor cockfighting, dogfighting and bullfighting, none of which are remotely comparable to the pain and suffering caused by the leghold trap just by virtue of the numbers involved.

I thank you and hope your names will appear in writing a new page of the history of the State of New Jersey.

Hedrick Smith



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION

DIVISION OF
FISH, GAME AND WILDLIFE
RUSSELL A. COOKINGHAM
DIRECTOR

PLEASE REPLY TO:
P. O. BOX 1809
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08625

Dear New Jersey Trapper:

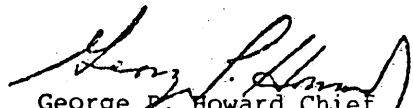
You have been selected to participate in the New Jersey Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife annual trapper harvest survey. Your name has been selected at random from 1980 trapping license stubs. We have no way of connecting you with the enclosed response card.

Over the past few years trapping has become a controversial issue. The information gathered in the survey is very necessary to Division biologists in establishing the value and importance of the fur industry in New Jersey.

Enclosed is a post-paid questionnaire. Please fill it out and drop it in the mail as soon as possible. If you cannot remember exact numbers, give your best estimate. Try to be as accurate as possible.

Your cooperation will help ensure that trapping continues as a viable sport, occupation and industry in New Jersey. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,


George P. Howard Chief
Bureau of Wildlife Management

GPH/saw

Hedge Haven Wildl.
Mgt. Area

PROGRESS REPORT

201-321-1040
~~Furbearer~~ Project Leader -
Sr. Biologist Furbearer Research
Project

STATE: NEW JERSEY

PROJECT NO.: W-59-R-5

PROJECT TITLE: FURBEARER RESEARCH

STUDY NO. AND TITLE: VIII - HARVEST, RECREATIONAL AND ECONOMIC SURVEYS

STUDY OBJECTIVE: TO DETERMINE THE ANNUAL HARVEST LEVEL AND RECREATIONAL AND ECONOMIC VALUES OF NEW JERSEY'S FURBEARER RESOURCE

JOB NO. AND TITLE: VIII-A - TRAPPER HARVEST, RECREATIONAL AND ECONOMIC SURVEY

JOB OBJECTIVE: TO DETERMINE THE HARVEST LEVELS AND THE RECREATIONAL AND ECONOMIC VALUES OF NEW JERSEY'S WILD FURBEARING RESOURCE

PERIOD COVERED: DECEMBER 1, 1981 - NOVEMBER 30, 1982

SUMMARY:

Questionnaires were mailed to 1,000 randomly selected purchasers of resident 1980 New Jersey trapping licenses requesting harvest, recreational and socio-economic information.

Based on the results of the survey, the estimated furbearer harvest for the 1981-82 trapping season was 330,030 muskrat (Ondatra zibethicus), 43,928 raccoon (Procyon lotor), 8,398 red fox (Vulpes vulpes), 7,486 gray fox (Urocyon cinereoargenteus), 215 beaver (Castor canadensis), 1,178 mink (Mustela vison), 25,004 opossum (Didelphis virginiana), 4,636 skunk (Mephitis mephitis nigra), 418 weasel (Mustela frenata), 2 coyote (Canis latrans) and 25 river otter (Lutra canadensis). The total estimated value of the 1981-82 harvest was 3.1 million dollars at the local level, 9.3 million dollars at the retail level and 18.6 million dollars in commerce generated statewide. The total man days of recreation derived was 186,802 statewide.

TARGET DATE:

The target date for completion of this job is November 30, 1985.

JOB PROGRESS:

Job progress is on schedule.

SIGNIFICANT DEVIATIONS:

There are no significant deviations.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that this job be continued.

COST:

The current segment cost is \$4,840.00 (Federal share is \$3,630.00; state share is \$1,210.00).

PROCEDURES:

A total of 1,000 license stubs were selected at random from the resident trapping licenses sold during the 1980 calendar year. This sample represents 24.6 percent of the entire population of 4,060 trappers licensed in 1980. The survey packet consisted of a twenty-four question questionnaire (Appendix I) which was mailed to the selected 1,000 trappers within two weeks of the close of the 1981-82 trapping season.

FINDINGS:Response

Of the 1,000 questionnaires mailed, 51 were returned by the postal authorities as undeliverable. Of the 949 questionnaires actually delivered, 28.7% were correctly completed and returned.

Non-Purchase of License

Of the trappers sampled, 11.0% did not buy a license to trap during the 1981-82 season, compared to 15.0% in 1980-81. An estimated 21.7% of the trappers purchased a 1981 license only and 1.5% purchased only a 1982 license.

Trappers were asked to list the reason or reasons that they did not purchase a license. As in previous years, the lack of time to trap was the most common reason (65.5%). See Table 1.

Table 1. Reasons for Not Purchasing a Trapping License During the 1981-82 Season

<u>Category</u>	<u>Percent of Total</u>
No time to trap	65.5
Price	3.4
Illness	10.3
Moved	3.4
Stolen traps	3.4
Leghold ban	3.4
No game	3.4
Low fur prices	6.9

N = 29

Trap Types

Trappers used an estimated total of 202,388 traps: 114,874 conibear, 68,362 legholds, 9,006 box traps, 8,056 diving traps and 2,090 snares.

Of the total trapper population, 82.2% were using conibears, 69.3% used legholds, 39.4% used box traps, 21.6% used divers and 3.3% used snares.

When asked to list the type and number of leghold traps used during the 1981-82 season, trappers listed the #1 1/2 coil spring (21.6%) and the #2 coil spring (21.3%) as the most commonly used trap types (Table 2). When compared to earlier surveys, other traps appear to be gaining greater usage, such as #1 stop loss, and #1 long spring.

Table 2. Types of Leghold Traps Used by New Jersey Trappers.

<u>Trap Type</u>	<u>Percent of Total Legholds</u>
#0 Stop Loss	.02
#0 Long Spring	.02
#0 Jump	.4
#0 Coil Spring	0.0
#1 Stop Loss	15.3
#1 Long Spring	13.8
#1 Jump	2.4
#1 Coil Spring	1.7
#1 1/2 Stop Loss	7.7
#1 1/2 Long Spring	2.6
#1 1/2 Jump	4.4
#1 1/2 Coil Spring	21.6
#1 3/4 Stop Loss	.3
#1 3/4 Long Spring	0.0
#1 3/4 Jump	.05
#1 3/4 Coil Spring	5.5
#2 Stop Loss	1.2
#2 Long Spring	.97
#2 Jump	.71
#2 Coil Spring	21.3

Use of the .22 Rifle

Individuals 18 years of age or older and possessing a rifle permit can legally dispatch trapped furbearers with a .22 rifle. Of the trappers sampled that were 18 or older, 38.6% used a .22 caliber rifle on their trap line during the 1981-82 season as compared to 40.5% in 1980-81.

Harvest

The estimated harvest and the mean harvest per trapper for each furbearer are shown in Table 3.

Table 3. Estimated Statewide Trapper Harvest by Species 1981-82 Season.

<u>Species</u>	<u>Mean Harvest/Trapper</u>	<u>Range/Trapper</u>	<u>Total</u>
Muskrat	86.85	0-1150	330,030
Raccoon	11.56	0-185	43,928
Red Fox	2.21	0-105	8,398
Gray Fox	1.97	0-37	7,486
Opossum	6.58	0-180	25,004
Skunk	1.22	0-23	4,636
Mink	.31	0-17	1,178
Weasel	.11	0-6	418
Beaver	-	0-5	215*
Coyote	-	0-1	2**
Otter	-	0-1	25*

* Trappers with special beaver-otter permits only. This is the total reported harvest, not an estimate.

** Mandatory reporting of coyotes. Total reported harvest, not an estimate.

Table 4 compares the harvest in 1981-82 to that of 1980-81 and gives the percent change between the two years. The harvest of most species was fairly consistent with the previous year with a range of -7.3% to +33% change seen in the major species; muskrat, raccoon and fox.

Table 4. Comparison of 1981-82 Estimated Furbearer Harvest With the 1980-81 Harvest

<u>Species</u>	<u>Total Estimated Harvest by Year</u>		
	<u>1980-81</u>	<u>1981-82</u>	<u>% of Change</u>
Muskrat	356,166	330,030	-7.3
Raccoon	39,574	43,928	+11.0
Red Fox	6,315	8,398	+33.0
Gray Fox	5,894	7,486	+27.0
Beaver	260	215	-17.3
Mink	1,684	1,178	-30.1
Opossum	25,681	25,004	-2.6
Skunk	5,473	4,636	-15.3
Weasel	421	418	-.7
Coyote	1	2	
Otter	No Season	25	

The harvest breakdown by county is presented in Table 5. Salem County remains the top producer of muskrats with an estimated harvest of 92,416.

Table 5.

Estimated Furbearer Harvest by County for the 1981-82 Season

<u>County</u>	<u>Muskrat</u>	<u>Raccoon</u>	<u>Red Fox</u>	<u>Gray Fox</u>	<u>Mink</u>	<u>Opossum</u>	<u>Skunk</u>	<u>Weasel</u>	<u>Beaver*</u>	<u>Otter*</u>	<u>Coyote*</u>
Atlantic	21,951	2,273	583	1,720	86	653	427	14	26	7	
Bergen	12,365	742	0	0	0	337	139	0			
Burlington	18,698	3,532	395	82	54	2,643	247	27	31	5	
Camden	7,743	571	0	25	12	248	37	0	12	2	
Cape May	13,008	1,216	256	224	74	1,008	400	12			
Cumberland	45,007	1,696	1,002	1,149	122	1,159	328	24	13	2	
Essex	1,948	661	0	0	24	74	61	36			
Gloucester	22,854	2,341	653	468	74	2,242	468	62	5	0	
Hudson	NO ESTIMATE										
Hunterdon	2,421	4,017	1,043	715	0	2,452	158	12			1
Mercer	7,370	977	25	0	25	370	86	0			
Middlesex	16,768	740	59	59	0	307	62	0			
Monmouth	10,513	5,727	585	397	73	1,693	222	13			
Morris	8,590	2,592	188	84	2	1,045	431	1	5	0	
Ocean	8,738	2,172	525	867	50	781	121	12	18	2	
Passaic	8,647	1,836	0	72	0	120	60	0	1	0	
Salem	92,416	3,192	836	331	0	2,649	441	61			
Somerset	3,078	1,524	340	111	44	770	44	0			
Sussex	12,687	4,542	1,319	967	471	2,956	280	2	94	7	1
Union	NO ESTIMATE										
Warren	15,446	3,238	565	360	49	3,439	612	110	10	0	

*Actual harvest, not an estimate.

98x

There are no estimates of harvest for either Hudson or Union County because of the poor response to the survey from those areas. This has little effect on the total estimates however, due to the low numbers of licensed trappers in these two counties (15 in Essex, 19 in Hudson) Table 6).

Table 6. Estimated Number of Trappers Residing in Each County (1981).

<u>County</u>	<u>Number of Trappers</u>
Atlantic	179
Bergen	110
Burlington	198
Camden	91
Cape May	160
Cumberland	418
Essex	15
Gloucester	422
Hudson	19
Hunterdon	103
Mercer	137
Middlesex	228
Monmouth	156
Morris	183
Ocean	182
Passaic	85
Salem	430
Somerset	171
Sussex	327
Union	19
Warren	167
Total	3,800

Economics

Table 7 presents a comparison of prices paid for raw fur in 1981-82 to that paid in 1980-81. In general, prices were lower for all species with the exception of raccoon and red fox.

Table 7. A Comparison of Fur Prices for the 1981-82 Season and the 1980-81 Season.

<u>Species</u>	<u>1980-81</u>	<u>1981-82</u>	<u>Change</u>
Muskrat	\$ 6.63	\$ 4.35	-2.28
Raccoon	18.90	21.65	+2.75
Red Fox	41.75	45.36	+3.61
Gray Fox	40.95	31.78	-9.17
Beaver	21.33	20.79	- .54
Mink	17.25	15.75	-1.50
Opossum	1.58	1.48	- .10
Skunk	1.47	1.33	- .14
Weasel	.80	.67	- .13
Otter		24.31	
Coyote		28.94	

The value of the 1981-82 New Jersey fur harvest was nearly 3.1 million dollars as compared to 3.7 million in 1980-81 (Table 8). The decrease is largely a reflection of the lower price paid for the pelts of most of the furbearers. The 3.1 million dollars at the local level translates to approximately 9.3 million at the retail level and 18.6 million in commerce generated statewide. The 3.1 million represents an income of approximately \$809.00 per individual trapper.

Table 8. Value of the 1981-82 New Jersey Fur Harvest*

<u>Furbearer</u>	<u>Estimated Harvest</u>	<u>Average Price</u>	<u>Estimated Revenue</u>
Muskrat	330,030	\$ 4.35	\$1,435,630.50
Raccoon	43,928	21.65	951,041.20
Red Fox	8,398	45.36	380,933.28
Gray Fox	7,486	31.78	237,905.08
Beaver	215	20.79	4,469.85
Mink	1,178	15.75	18,553.50
Opossum	25,004	1.48	37,005.92
Skunk	4,636	1.33	6,165.88
Weasel	418	.67	280.06
Otter	25	24.31	607.75
Coyote	2	28.94	57.88
			<u>\$3,072,650.90</u>

* Average raw fur prices were established following a survey of 17 fur buyers and 2 auctions.

It was possible to trap for a total of 121 days during the 1981-82 season; however, 70.6% of the trappers were active for less than half of the days available.

Table 9. Frequency Distribution of the Number of Days Trapped During the 1981-82 Season

<u>Number of Days Trapped</u>	<u>Percent in Category</u>
1-5	3.6
6-10	6.8
11-20	16.3
21-30	13.1
31-40	10.9
41-50	10.4
51-60	9.5
61-70	6.3
71-80	5.4
81-90	4.5
91-100	2.7
101-110	2.7
111-121	7.7

The estimated total number of man days of recreation derived from trapping statewide was 186,802. Estimated man days of recreation per county are shown in Table 10.

Table 10. Total Estimated Man Days of Trapping Recreation by County During the 1981-82 Season.

<u>County</u>	<u>Man Days</u>
Atlantic	8,682
Bergen	4,143
Burlington	10,421
Camden	8,609
Cape May	9,760
Cumberland	19,604
Essex	515
Gloucester	23,910
Hudson	No Estimate
Hunterdon	5,421
Mercer	6,272
Middlesex	8,869
Monmouth	7,901
Morris	7,578
Ocean	12,127
Salem	25,097
Somerset	5,626
Sussex	11,036
Union	760
Warren	10,471
Total	186,802

Socioeconomic

The age distribution of New Jersey's trappers remains consistently young. In the 1981-82 survey, 55.4% were under the age of 35 compared to 61.8% in 1980-81 (Table 11).

Table 11. Age Distribution of Licensed 1981 Trappers

<u>Age Class</u>	<u>Percent of All Trappers</u>
10-15	.4
16-17	2.8
18-19	7.4
20-24	18.1
25-29	15.3
30-34	10.7
35-39	10.7
40-44	5.8
45-49	7.0
50-54	3.7
55-59	4.1
60-64	3.3
65-69	7.0
70-74	2.1
75-85	.4
> 85	.4

Occupation and income breakdowns of New Jersey trappers are presented in Table 12 and 13. Blue-collar workers consistently constitute the largest percentage of trappers (43.6%).

Table 12. Occupation of Trappers Sampled During the 1980-81 and 1981-82 Seasons

	<u>1980-81 Percent</u>	<u>1981-82 Percent</u>
Student	19.4	11.1
Self-Employed	11.7	11.9
Farmer	6.2	6.6
White Collar	11.4	9.1
Blue Collar	39.0	43.6
Unemployed	3.5	4.5
Retired	8.2	12.8
Military	.6	.4

Table 13. Trappers Income from Sources Other Than Trapping During 1981-82

<u>Income</u>	<u>Percent of All Trappers</u>
0-1,000	7.2
1,000-5,000	14.0
5,000-10,000	16.2
10,000-15,000	20.4
15,000-20,000	23.4
20,000	18.7

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DATE: March 30, 1983

George P. Howard, Chief
Bureau of Wildlife Management

1. Did you buy a trapping license in: 1981 _____ 1982 _____ 1981 & 1982 _____
2. If no, or only 1981 (and not 1982) why did you not purchase a license?

3. Did you trap during the 1981-82 season (Nov. 15, 1981 to March 15, 1982)? Yes No
4. Please list the number of days you trapped during the following periods of the 1981-82 trapping season.

	<u>Number of Days Trapped</u>
November 15 - Nov.30, 1981	_____
Dec. 1 - Jan. 1, 1982	_____
Jan. 2, 1982 - Feb. 1, 1982	_____
Feb. 2 - March 15, 1982	_____
5. What county do you live in? _____

The following is the most important question on this questionnaire. It helps us to identify trends in the furbearer populations. Read both parts of the question and please answer the appropriate section carefully.

6a. If you trapped all the animals you caught in only one county: list the county _____; and then list how many of each furbearer you caught from November 15, 1981 to March 15, 1982 (your best estimate if you can't remember exactly).

muskrat _____	grey fox _____	mink _____	coyote _____
raccoon _____	opossum _____	weasel _____	otter _____
red fox _____	skunk _____	beaver _____	

6b. If you trapped more than one county, list the total number of each furbearer you caught on the right of the chart below. Enter the number of animals caught in each county under the county name (your best estimate).

	Salem	Cumberland	Cap. May	Gloucester	Bur.ington	Atlantic	Camden	Ocean	Middlesex	Monmouth	Mercer	Hunterdon	Somerset	Morris	Warren	Sussex	Passaic	Bergen	Essex	Hudson	Union	Total Number of Animals	
Muskrat																							
Raccoon																							
Grey fox																							
Red fox																							
Opossum																							
Mink																							
Weasel																							
Skunk																							
Beaver																							
Otter																							
Coyote																							

	Salem	Cumberland	Gloucester	Total Caught
Muskrat	400	300	300	1000
Raccoon	20	10	10	40
Grey fox	5	5	10	20

105x

(COMPLETE BOTH SIDES)

7. Did you have any accidental captures of animals other than those listed in question 6?

If yes, how many?

dogs _____ cats _____ birds _____ bobcat _____
other _____ (specify)

8. On the average, how many traps of each type do you run on your trap line each day?
Conibear _____ Leghold _____ Box Traps _____ Diving Boxes _____ Snares _____

9. If you used legholds, please indicate how many of each size and type you use on your average daily trap line.

	Trap Size				
	#0	#1	#1 1/4	#1 3/4	#2
Stop Loss					
Long Spring					
Jump					
Coil Spring					

10. Do you modify your legholds? Yes _____ No _____
If yes, which type do you modify? _____ Briefly describe the modification.

11. Did you use a 22 caliber rifle on your trap line this past season (Nov. 15, 1981 to March 15, 1982)? Yes _____ No _____

12. How much did it cost you for new equipment this season (only items purchased this year) _____

13. What is your age? _____

14. How old were you when you began trapping? _____

15. What type of land do you do most or all of your trapping on? Private land _____
Federal land _____ Fish & wildlife mgt. area _____ Other state land _____
Municipal land _____ (Specify)

16. How many miles do you travel to get to your trap line (estimate)? _____

17. On the average, how long does it take you to check your trap line? (from when you leave home to when you return home). 0-1 hr. _____ 1-3 hrs. _____
3-5 hrs. _____ 5-7 hrs. _____ greater than 7 _____

18. What is your occupation? student _____ self-employed _____ farmer _____
white collar _____ blue collar _____ temporarily unemployed _____
retired _____ military _____

19. What is your yearly income from sources other than trapping?
0-\$1000 _____ \$1000-5000 _____ \$5-10,000 _____ \$10-15,000 _____
\$15-20,000 _____ above \$20,000 _____

20. What level of education have you obtained?
Grammar School _____ High School _____ College _____ College Graduate _____
Graduate School _____

21. Please indicate how you sell your fur.

	Fresh	Frozen	Fleshed & Dried
Unskinned	_____	_____	_____
Skinned	_____	_____	_____

22. Where do you sell your pelts? local fur buyers _____ mail order _____
auction _____ other (explain) _____

23. Who taught you to trap? father _____ grandfather _____ brother _____ self-taught _____
uncle _____ friend _____ other _____

24. Have you taken the New Jersey Trappers Training Course given by the Division?

Yes _____ No _____

If yes, what year? 1977 _____ 1978 _____ 1979 _____ 1980 _____ 1981 _____

106x

THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF ATLANTIC COUNTY

"A FRIEND TO ANIMALS IN NEED"



SHELTER
1801 Absecon Blvd.
Atlantic City, N. J. 08401
609 344-0346

June 10, 1983

Whereas the leghold trap is indiscriminate in its capture of wildlife and pets, and is a method of trapping that is painful and often resulting in slow and painful death when said traps are not properly checked

Whereas many household pets that are caught in traps often die or have to have a leg amputated

Whereas major humane societies are endeavoring to pass legislation banning the leghold trap

RESOLVED that the constituents of The Humane Society of Atlantic County here gathered in conference commend the actions of any and all humane societies seeking to ban the leghold trap in New Jersey and the United States of America and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Humane Society of Atlantic County encourage its members and the general public to support the efforts of The Humane Society of the United States, The Society for Animal Protective Legislation and Friends of Animals seeking to ban the leghold trap.

Marge M. Laughlin

Marge McLaughlin, Secretary
HUMANE SOCIETY OF ATLANTIC COUNTY

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