

# Cougar Trapping Techniques: A Comprehensive Guide to Capturing Cougars and Cubs



## How To Trap a Cougar Vs. How To Trap a Cub by Ben Peller

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

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Cougars, also known as mountain lions, are elusive and powerful predators that inhabit a wide range of habitats across North and South America. Their presence can pose a threat to livestock and humans, especially in areas where populations are increasing or human encroachment is occurring.

Trapping is a common method of managing cougar populations and mitigating conflicts with humans. However, capturing these animals requires specialized knowledge and techniques to ensure both safety and effectiveness.

## Selecting the Right Cougar Traps

The first step in cougar trapping is choosing the right equipment. Traps should be large enough to accommodate the animal's size, and they must

be strong enough to withstand the force of a struggling cougar. There are several different types of traps available, including:

- **Cage traps:** These are box-like traps with mesh sides or bars that allow the cougar to be viewed. They are typically made of steel or aluminum and can be collapsed for easy transport.
- **Foot-hold traps:** These traps consist of a metal jaw that snaps shut on the animal's foot. They are particularly effective for capturing cougars that are accustomed to human activity.
- **Snaring traps:** These traps consist of a wire loop that tightens around the animal's neck or body when triggered. They are less common than cage traps and foot-hold traps, but they can be effective in certain situations.

## **Baiting and Setting Cougar Traps**

Once you have selected the right traps, you need to bait and set them in areas where cougars are known to frequent. The choice of bait will depend on the specific location and the animals' preferences. Common baits include:

- **Deer or elk carcasses**
- **Livestock**
- **Small mammals**
- **Commercial cougar baits**

When setting traps, it is important to consider the following factors:

- **Location:** Place traps in areas where cougars are known to travel, such as game trails, watering holes, or dens.
- **Cover:** Provide cover around the traps to make the animals feel secure.
- **Antifreeze:** Apply antifreeze to the traps to prevent them from freezing in cold weather.
- **Scent control:** Wear gloves and avoid leaving any human scent on the traps or bait.

## **Trapping Cubs vs. Adult Cougars**

There are some important differences to consider when trapping cubs versus adult cougars:

### **Trapping Cubs:**

- Cubs are typically easier to trap than adults because they are less experienced and more likely to approach bait.
- Use smaller traps specifically designed for cubs.
- Place traps near dens or areas where cubs are known to play.
- Use a mother cougar as bait to attract cubs.

### **Trapping Adult Cougars:**

- Adult cougars are more cautious and difficult to trap.
- Use larger traps that are strong enough to restrain a full-grown cougar.

- Set traps in areas where cougars are known to travel, such as game trails or near prey.
- Use large baits, such as deer or elk carcasses, to attract cougars.

## **Safety Considerations**

Trapping cougars can be a dangerous activity, and it is important to take the following precautions:

- **Wear proper safety gear**, including gloves, eye protection, and sturdy boots.
- **Never approach a trapped cougar**. Call for assistance if the animal is aggressive or injured.
- **Handle traps with care**. Always wear gloves and avoid placing your hands or feet near the trigger.
- **Check traps regularly** to prevent animals from suffering unnecessarily.

Cougar trapping is a complex and challenging activity that requires specialized knowledge and skills. By carefully selecting the right traps, baiting and setting them in the appropriate locations, and taking the necessary safety precautions, it is possible to capture cougars effectively while minimizing the risk of harm to both the animals and the trapper.

It is important to note that trapping regulations can vary depending on the jurisdiction, and it is essential to obtain the necessary permits and follow all applicable laws and regulations.



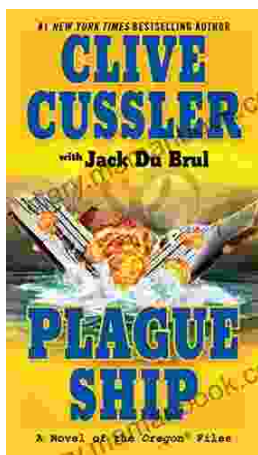
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