

W.C.T.

VOLUME 30 ■ No. 2

\$7.99

WILDLIFE CONTROL TECHNOLOGY

SUCCESS STARTS WITH KNOWLEDGE =====



===== ***MARCH - APRIL 2023***

THE ALL AMERICAN BIRD CONTROL SPIKES

100% Stainless Steel Spikes Manufactured in the USA!

Nixalite® Premium Spikes



- All Stainless Steel Spikes
- 20 Year Quality Warranty
- 120 Wire Points per Foot
- Effective for All Bird Species
- Climbing Animal Barriers
- Available in ColorCoat Colors
- Includes Bird Spike Hardware

E-Spike™ Eco Bird Spikes



- All Stainless Steel Spikes
- 15 Year Quality Warranty
- 48 Wire Points per Foot
- For Pigeons and Seagulls
- Available in 2 or 4 Foot Strips
- Available in ColorCoat Colors
- Low Cost, Long Lasting Spike

Pigeon Spike Stainless™



- All Stainless Steel Spikes
- 10 Year Quality Warranty
- 24 Wire Points per Foot
- Designed to Deter Pigeons
- Available in 2 or 4 Foot Strips
- Available in ColorCoat Colors
- Stainless for Less than Plastic

Family Owned & Operated, Nixalite
is Located in America's Heartland,
Right Where We Started in 1950!



73
Years
1950-2023

For details visit **nixalite.com** or call **309.755.8771**



Nixalite® of America Inc
Bird & Animal Control Since 1950



www.nixalite.com • birdcontrol@nixalite.com • P 309-755-8771

W.C.T.

MARCH - APRIL 2023

**Wildlife Control Technology
Magazine**

On The Cover:

Longtime contributor Paul Winkelmann with one of his cage trapped coyotes. Photo supplied by Paul Winkelmann.

FEATURES

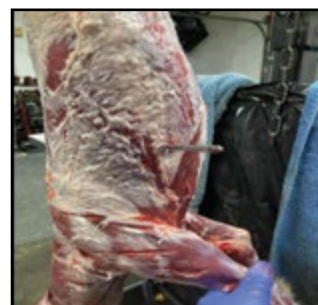
WCT RECAP: CHIMNEYS AND SWIFTS	6
REX E. MARSH	
MORE RAMBLES	18
GORDON BETTS	
LEFT OR RIGHT PAW DOMINANT	20
JOHN R. CONSOLINI	
ANIMALS IN CHIMNEYS	24
ERIC ARNOLD	
SKUNKS 101	28
ERIC ARNOLD	
CHEMICAL VERTIBRATE CONTROL	31
WCT STAFF	



COYOTE TRAPPING
COVER



CHIMNEY SWIFTS
PAGE 6



COYOTE CONTROL
PAGE 14



LEFT OR RIGHT
PAGE 20

DEPARTMENTS

From the Editor:	3
Press Release	10
From the Toolbox by Jack Ammerman	12
Urban Coyote Control by Bill Christman	14
Around the Cage Traps by Paul Winkelmann.....	16
Index of Advertisers	31
Question & Answer	32

illustrations in motion

- The Artwork of Sharon Knight



You've seen her work in:

Fur-Fish-Game, Trapper's Post, Trapper & Predator Caller, Wildlife Control Technology and other publications.

Now is your chance to have your own print of her works.

For a limited time only, Free Shipping on all orders.

Available exclusively at www.illustrationsinmotion.com

Disclaimer: This publication (WCT Magazine) contains views, opinions and beliefs of the authors and does not represent the views, opinions or beliefs of WCT Group, Inc. or their affiliates. The reader acknowledges that any trapping and/or pesticide recommendations discussed are subject to change at any time, and may vary from state to state.

These recommendations are provided only as a guide. It is always the reader's responsibility, by law, to read and follow all Federal, State, and local laws, as well as current label directions for any specific techniques, equipment, pesticides, and toxicants being used.

Due to constantly changing codes, laws, labels, and product registration, some of the recommendations given in this publication may not be, or are no longer, legal for the reader by the time they are read. If any information in these recommendations violates the reader's codes and laws, or if the reader, when using pesticides, disagrees with the publication, this publication's recommendations must be disregarded.

No endorsement is intended for any products/techniques mentioned, nor is criticism meant for products/techniques not mentioned. The publisher assumes no liability resulting from the use of these recommendations.



Digital Back Issues of
WCT Magazine
are now available
exclusively at

wctmagazine.com/issues.htm

W.C.T.

Wildlife Control Technology

Published By

WCT Group, Inc.
P.O. Box 357 ■ Sharon Center, OH 44274
330-350-2161

Editor

Eric Arnold
P.O. Box 357 ■ Sharon Center, OH 44274
editor@wctmagazine.com
330-350-2161

Contributing Editors

Paul Winkelmann
Jack Ammerman
Hunter Bodenchuk
Gordon Betts

Art

Sharon Knight, Artist

Advertising Director

Natasha Arnold
P.O. Box 357 ■ Sharon Center, OH 44274
advertising@wctmagazine.com
330-350-2161

Circulation Director

Natalie Arnold
P.O. Box 357 ■ Sharon Center, OH 44274
subscriptions@wctmagazine.com
330-350-2161

Potential Contributors: **Wildlife Control Technology** welcomes contributions from our readers. Unsolicited manuscripts are acceptable. Please include SASE for return of manuscripts and material. Electronic submissions encouraged. Writer's guidelines are available at www.wctmagazine.com. Send manuscripts to Eric Arnold, Editor, W.C.T., PO Box 357, Sharon Center, OH 44274 email: editor@wctmagazine.com.

Wildlife Control Technology (ISSN 1085-5394) is published bimonthly by WCT Group, Inc. Subscription rate is \$40.00 USD per year in the United States, \$70.00 USD per year in Canada. Single copy price is \$7.99

Circulation inquires and information:

Publisher: **WCT Group, Inc.**, PO Box 357, Sharon Center, OH 44274

Editorial: **Eric Arnold**, PO Box 357, Sharon Center, OH 44274.

Advertising: **Natasha Arnold**, 330-350-2161.

Copyright © 2022 by WCT Group, Inc.

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopy, recording, or any information storage and retrieval system, without express permission in writing from the publisher.

Postmaster: Send address changes to:

WCT Magazine
P.O. Box 357 ■ Sharon Center, OH 44274



FROM THE EDITOR

ERIC ARNOLD, EDITOR

P.O. Box 357 ■ Sharon Center, OH 44272



2023 BAT WORK UPDATE

Anyone who plans to perform any bat work in 2023 should be aware of several significant changes that could impact their services.

On March 31, 2023, the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) will upgrade the listing of the Northern Long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*) from "Threatened" status to "Endangered" status on the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

The Northern long-eared bat (NLEB) was initially listed as threatened on the ESA in 2016,

along with several Section 4(d) rules that allowed incidental take while performing certain activities throughout the bat's range where white-nosed syndrome was not present. However, due to legal challenges over this listing, FWS has recommended upgrading the status to endangered.

Although the NLEB will have an upgraded status, a list of actions that would unlikely result in a violation of the ESA, provided the activities are carried out in accordance with existing regulations

and permit requirements, has been added.

Of most importance to operators are the following listings:

- Minimal tree removal and vegetation management activities that occur any time of the year outside of suitable forested/wooded habitat and more than five miles from known or potential hibernacula;
- Tree removal that occurs at any time of year in highly developed urban areas;

Continued on page 5

Bird Barrier
30th ANNIVERSARY
EST. 1993

The team at Bird Barrier appreciates the business and trust of the pest management industry. We are so proud to be your partner in this dynamic industry, and truly enjoy the mutual support we've enjoyed for the past 30 years.

Thank You Pest Industry

2023 Bird Barrier Team

Bird-Shock® Flex-Track

Bird-Coil®

StealthNet®

Eagle Eye®

Scan for Optical Gel training

Optical Gel™

Low, cost investment, profitable mark-up, easy to install, and a product guarantee.

ProL@bb Training

Advanced IPM has had the opportunity to go through the Bird Barrier Certification training multiple times. The best part is the training doesn't stop once the course is over. Bird Barrier continues to help support and train our teams on an ongoing basis. Thank you Bird Barrier for being an amazing partner!

- Travis Curtis, Manager, Advanced IPM Branch

Customer Service

Bird Barrier's professional and courteous staff has provided our company's expanding footprint for over a decade. Their expertise and experience in bird management is reflected in their passion for helping to educate and remediate the toughest of environments. I wouldn't go anywhere else for our bird remediation solutions.

- Tug Passen, Region Operations Manager, RK Environmental

Innovative Products

Ecoskan was an early adopter of Optical Gel technology. It provided an affordable deterrent. We were stunned and pleased with the immediate results. Over the last 5 years, we have shared with others. Now we see the application used frequently. Thanks, Bird Barrier!

- Sam & Heather Tuttle, Owners, Ecoskan Pest Solutions

Product Delivery

I became a Bird Barrier Certified Installer over 20 years ago. The support from their customer service and warehouse teams - is 2nd to none. They keep up with our fast-paced New York market, and products are always delivered when promised!

- David Kane, Partner, Bye Bye Birdie

TOMAHAWK LIVE TRAP

GET THE STINK OUT!

TLT offers a variety of skunk trapping solutions to fit most every need.



105.2 -
Sheet Metal
Enclosed
Skunk Trap



924 -
Plastic
Dura-Poly
Skunk Trap



P623- Plastic Tube
Skunk Trap



One Year
FACTORY WARRANTY

DEPENDABLE. TOUGH.
TOMAHAWK



Tomahawk Live Trap llc.

Call: 800-272-8727 | Online: www.livetrapp.com

EDITORIAL:

Continued from page 3

• Residential and commercial building construction, exterior improvements or additions, renovation, and demolition in urban areas.

Before operators think this isn't going to affect them, make sure to read the fine print with these exceptions. **"... activities are carried out in accordance with existing regulations and permit requirements."**

In other words, you'll need to receive a federal or special state incidental take permit and possibly develop a habitat conservation plan (HCP) for performing bat exclusion when dealing with NLEB.

As of this writing, I could find nothing on the take of an individual bat inside a structure that constitutes a human health or safety risk.

Another bat that is being added to the ESA this year is the Tricolored bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*), formerly known as the Eastern Pipistrelle) will also be placed on the ES under "Endangered" status. Currently, no exemption list is

available, nor may one be forthcoming.

Finally, the FWS has indicated that it will address the status of the Little brown bat (*Myotis lucifugus*) by the end of the year.

Agencies expect the Little brown bat to receive an "Endangered" listing when this happens. Several states, such as Ohio, have already listed the Little brown bat as a state-endangered species along with the Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*), NLB, and Tricolored bat.

What does all this mean to operators?

Suppose the actions of the Ohio Division of Wildlife (ODOW) are any indicator of the whole. In that case, operators can expect to have new permitting systems put in place for performing bat exclusions along with much shorter timelines for services to be provided.

For example, Ohio is looking at potentially restricting bat exclusion services to April 1- May 15 and August 1 - September 30. Any bat-proofing services performed outside of this timeframe or involving a state-threatened or endangered bat would require granting of

a permit by ODOW before services could be performed.

It also needs to be pointed out that once the NLEB, Tricolored, and Little brown bat are officially upgraded/listed, a federal permit will be required for any exclusion involving these species.

Several states, like Michigan, have already begun requesting permits for taking these species, which is done with Canada geese. Still, I am unaware if any have been or will be issued or if any conditions have been attached.

In most cases, permits for ESA-listed species are only awarded to educational facilities, researchers affiliated with a recognized educational facility, and wildlife rehabbers.

It is not currently known how these rules will be applied to wildlife control operators, the cost of permits, the timeline of the permitting process, or the handling/testing of bats deemed a human health/safety threat.

All that is certain is that operators must stay on top of these changes and adjust their business as necessary. ■



FUR TAKERS OF AMERICA, INC.

Website: www.furtakersofamerica.com

- Established in 1968 with a goal of preserving our heritage while protecting our future.
- *The Fur Taker*--monthly magazine (free with regular/junior/life memberships)

Name _____
(first) (Last) (e-mail)

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____ Phone(____) _____

- ☐ Regular \$40 ☐ 2 yrs \$75
☐ Junior \$15 (age 17 or younger)
☐ Sustaining Donor \$40 (magazine not included)
☐ Canadian Membership \$50

- ☐ New Member
☐ Renewal

Complete and send Appropriate Payment to:
 Fur Takers of America, Inc.
 PO Box 98
 Oregon, WI 53575

(608) 298-3119

accounting@furtakersofamerica.com

Contact for Life Membership Information
 Call to use your credit card for payment--service charge added

WCT RECAP: CHIMNEYS AND SWIFTS

by Rex E. Marsh

(Editor's Note: This article first appeared in the November/December 2013 issue of *Wildlife Control Technology* magazine.)

Several species of birds may occasionally nest or roost on or in chimneys, but there are two specific members of the relatively small family of swifts (Apodidae) that are most known for swooping down in a swirling flock and funneling into an open-topped chimney to roost for the night. These are the chimney swift (*Chaetura pelagica*) found in central and eastern Canada southward to the Gulf States, mostly east of the Rocky Mountains, and the slightly smaller Vaux's swift (*C. vauxi*), which breeds in the highlands from Alaska southward through California and the other western states. Areas of distribution for swifts are not rigidly defined, for we sometimes find mixed flocks. For example, here in the far west, a few chimney swifts may be found with flocks of Vaux's. Both species migrate during daylight hours to Central and northern South America for the winter—Venezuela and Peru are the countries most often mentioned.

About the size of a martin, these swallow-like swifts have cigar-shaped bodies with long narrow backward sweeping wings. Swifts as a group are most interesting and are among our fastest fliers, spending much of their waking time on the wing. They feed in groups on insects that they catch mid-air, mate in flight, and even collect nesting materials without alighting.

Both species commonly nest and roost inside hollow trees, open wells, caves, abandoned mines, and large smokestacks. Occa-

sionally they use uncapped home chimneys in which to nest or roost, hence the name chimney swift given to the most easterly species; however, the Vaux's swift is equally guilty in using chimneys in the western part of the country where they are mostly found.

All swifts have forward-pointing toes that enable them to cling to rough vertical surfaces, much like a woodpecker. Swifts have stiff tail feathers that help support them upright on a vertical surface. Chimney flues of clay tile or brick and mortar are ideal for nesting and roosting because the birds can readily cling to the walls. They roost huddled together tightly packed, with every inch of available space occupied by the birds. Smooth metal-lined flues are a disaster for swifts because they can't secure a toehold, and if they can't immediately escape the chimney, they end up in the fireplace below or atop a closed damper.

The mated pair cooperate in nest building, using their glue-like saliva to secure sticks and twigs together, forming a half-saucer bracket-type nest that is attached to a vertical surface such as inside a chimney. Usually, only one pair at a time will use a specific chimney for nesting. Four to five eggs are normally laid with both sexes involved in incubation. Egg laying, incubation, and brood tending gen-



Greg Schechter from San Francisco, USA, CC BY 2.0
<<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/>>, via
Wikimedia Commons

erally fall between May and August, depending on the latitude. While a nesting pair with their squawking young may be disturbing enough for a homeowner to call a Wildlife Control Operator (WCO), often little can be done to immediately resolve this problem because swifts are protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and cannot be killed nor can the active nest be destroyed until after the brood has fledged. Once the young have fledged, the chimney should be cleaned and capped as a permanent solution.

In early fall, before they venture off to their winter grounds, swifts begin to congregate in larger and larger flocks and use communal roosts. At dusk, these flocks may number in hundreds, thousands, or tens of thousands and may enter a chimney to roost at night. The synchronization of the flock in the evening sky as it maneuvers to stream into a chimney is a spectacular sight.

When this occurs, it can be a very noisy and frightening time

for the home occupants, especially if there are more birds than the chimney can accommodate, or if the chimney is metal lined and the birds cannot grip the flue walls and if the damper has been left in the open position. Under these circumstances, several hundred or more soot-covered fluttering swifts will be frantically struggling against the fireplace screen in an effort to escape into the room. The associated noise created by hundreds of panic-stricken birds makes for a scary situation for the residents. Those involved often state that it is reminiscent of Alfred Hitchcock's film, *The Birds*.

Such incidents may occur in the fall just prior to their migration south or may occur during their trip south and similarly may occur on their return to their breeding grounds. Swift roosting problems are, hence, spring and fall events.

The occurrences of swifts occupying a chimney are, fortunately, relatively rare, although in some years, there may be as many as 6 to 8 reported incidents in California alone that make the news. These happenings almost always catch the homeowner by surprise and create such urgency that they most often call the police or fire department for rapid assistance. In turn, these departments may call an animal control officer or a WCO for help. With few exceptions, the news media will almost always solicit the help of a local bird expert to identify the species. Such events make for good human interest stories.

Such incidents can be quite costly to the homeowner, for the soot-covered birds that escape into the room are frantically flying from one location to another in an effort to escape. In the process, everything they contact is soiled—curtains, drapes, upholstery, rugs, and expensive artwork. Most may

be soot and claw damaged beyond cleaning and repair—not to mention items broken or damaged in the bird's capture process.

These occurrences are so infrequent that even a WCO may be ill-prepared with the know-how or the needed equipment and, as a result, will have to improvise. When arriving on-site, the first thing is to confine the problem to one room by closing the doors to all other rooms and, if possible, close the damper. Then block off the fireplace opening to prevent more birds from entering the room. Use whatever is at hand, even bed sheets, plastic sheeting, a tarp, or a sheet of plywood. The goal is to get the opening closed as soon as possible to stop more birds from entering the room.

Once the fireplace is sealed off, begin the process of retrieving those birds from their sooty and smoky entrapment. The live swifts may be allowed to escape into a wire cage through a small opening made near the top of your sealed-off fireplace. Another option is to reach through a hole in the seal and grab the birds one by one for placement into a holding cage. A small handheld bird net may be helpful.

In some instances, a bucket of dead birds may be removed from the bottom of the fireplace—having been smothered by the other birds in their frantic effort to free themselves from a bad situation—an unsuitable or undersized chimney.

Injured but alive birds should be collected and taken to a bird or wildlife rehabilitation center if one is nearby. Call your local Fish and Game Department requesting instructions for disposing of the dead swifts. The healthy birds are immediately released.

Any swifts that have escaped into the room must be captured or driven out-of-doors through an open door or unscreened windows.

If there is still some light outside, try darkening the room by turning out the lights and opening the outside doors. Birds in a dark room tend to fly toward lighted areas. It is in these situations that you draw upon all those bird-catching techniques you have learned and used while trying to evict birds from schools, restaurants, or stores.

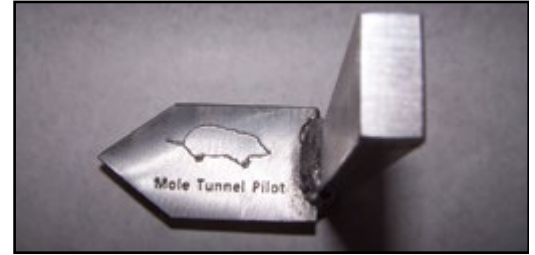
Not all chimney roosting swifts are a problem. Individuals have reported that in the evening, hundreds of swifts have flooded into their uncapped chimney, where they stayed all night, only to stream out and fly off in the morning. Since the damper was closed and there was sufficient space to accommodate all the birds, no harm was done, although a chimney sweep should probably be called to clean the debris left behind by the birds.

If a swift invasion of a chimney does occur in your town or a nearby city, don't miss a good opportunity to promote, sell, and install chimney caps to their neighbors. The sale of chimney caps almost always rises immediately following the report in the news of one of these events. In this way, you can add to your bottom line without ever having been directly involved in these rare occurrences.

Swifts may return year after year to use the same communal roosts on their migratory route south. A great example is the Chapman Elementary School in Portland, Oregon, where thousands to tens of thousands of Vaux's swifts arrive annually—from some time about mid-August to mid-October to roost nightly inside a very large now unused 100-year-old brick chimney. They return nightly to this same roost for several weeks before moving on southward. To see this massive swarm of swifts funneling into the chimney at dusk is so spectacular that it brings out thousands of bird watchers every year. ■

The Future of Mole Control Has Arrived! Introducing the Mole Tunnel Pilot

Designed and developed specifically for the use with the 'Trapline' mole traps, the 'Mole Tunnel Pilot' (MTP) tool is constructed of solid aluminum welded stock material that is lightweight, very durable and rustproof. Weighing less than a pound, this "Professional Model Tool" was built to hold up to very vigorous commercial mole trapping use.



This tool provides a consistent trap setting chamber by enlarging and configuring the mole tunnel while compressing the soil or sod for the Trapline mole trap. The action of the MTP tool speeds up trap setting and prevents trap malfunction due to small rocks, roots and a poorly enlarged tunnel that can cause your traps to hang up resulting in a missed catch.



"Jameson's MTP is a perfect match for the Trapline Mole Trap. You'll no longer have to worry about unseen tunnel obstructions (roots, rocks, etc) interfering with a sure catch. It's as good as it gets!"

Jason Turner, Wildlife Removal, Etc.

The professional Mole Tunnel Pilot tool helps to eliminate a lot of trial and error, unforeseen problems, miss fires and wasted field time as a result of poorly set traps in general. The overall design and function of the MTP tool provides all the needed steps to use the Trapline traps most effectively.

All you must do is select the best place to set your traps and the Mole Tunnel Pilot will do the rest for you. Just stabilize and anchor the traps as needed. The development and use of the MTP for commercial mole control work has been a game changer for mole work. It will reduce trap setting time, significantly reduce misses due to ground conditions and increase your effectiveness as a result of its basic function.

\$69.00 + S&H

(Continental U.S.)

Available at

www.jamesonsultrablend.com



"I had the opportunity in February of this year to visit Bob Jameson at his lure shop in Daisytown, Pa. When I was at his shop, I noticed a tool in his mole trapping equipment. Bob explained to me it was a tool he had been working on to make setting the Trap Line mole trap easier. He calls this tool the Mole Tunnel Pilot.

He developed the tool through trial and error until he came up with a prototype. (Not available to the public at that time). He gave me the new tool to try out in the spring. The tool is built like a tank yet light-weight and will not rust and will last many years.

I used the tool all through the spring mole season. I can honestly say, the tool makes setting the Trap Line mole traps much easier and more efficient. The tool is the same dimension of the trap. The Mole Tunnel Pilot is placed in the mole run. By using a rocking motion, it makes the perfect trap bed for trap placement so there is a greater catch ratio. Missing moles is a thing of the past."

Pete Cappa, Cappa Wildlife Control Services

USING THE MOLE TUNNEL PILOT

Once you have inspected the mole tunnels to determine a straight direction of travel with a probing tool, you are now ready to use the MTP tool. Kneeling perpendicular to one side of the mole tunnel is the best position to work the tool. You can work the tool on both opposing tunnels from this position quite easily. You will need to switch hands to use the tool on the opposite tunnel side. This muscle memory is easily learned.

Grasping the MTP tool by the handle you then align and insert the MTP triangular pointed head facing into the tunnel opening. This is done in a manner that will ensure the tools insertion point is in proper alignment with the tunnel direction.

Once the tunnel/tool alignment is completed, you must apply a rapid rocking motion back and forth at the top end of the handle with one hand while simultaneously pushing in on the bottom end of the tool with your other hand. I generally pivot / rock the top of the handle back and forth between my middle finger and thumb very quickly. With a little practice this action can be done surprisingly fast. The combining of the rocking action and applying pressure inward of the pilot tool base into the tunnel provides easy insertion of the tool. Only a few seconds is required in most ground conditions to work the tool into position.

TIP > If you have activity in dry tunnel areas you may pour water into the selected area to saturate the soil prior to setting to make working the area much easier.

The MTP tool should be inserted far enough into the tunnel until the face of the handle comes into snug contact with the face of the sod wall. This tooling action will give you the exact pilot size needed for the trap line traps to be positioned easily.

The next step, prior to removing the tool from the insertion point is needed to establish dirt compression of the piloted tunnel area. This step is done to compact and form the loose dirt reducing soil collapse/settling around the trap. Soil is constantly settling due to gravity, moisture exerted weight and surface vibrations. This step deals with this action.

Compression of the piloted area and creating a throat in front of the trap jaws in the tunnel is quite simple. This action gives the mole plenty of room to enter the trap jaws.

This is done by placing a somewhat cupped open hand over the sod area (while applying downward pressure against the upward action of the tool) just above the head of the inserted MTP tool. By pulling the handle back and pushing firmly forward a few times this will create the compressed chamber for the tunnel roof/floor, enlarging the tunnel trap throat and creating the heel depression.

This action compacts the soil at the top and the bottom of the tunnel run. Thus forming a tight chamber tailored made for the trap line traps. The heel depression does two things. It allows the trap spring to rotate freely without resistance and it allows the trap line trap to be set upside down very easily by acting as a base for the trap spring.

Traps should be fully inserted into each tunnel with the trap jaws facing forward into each opposing tunnel. The rotating "setting spring" located at the rear of the trap should be positioned over the depression area created by the heel of the MTP tool. This depression allows the trap to fire without any restriction

Always ensure each trap is bedded firmly into the bottom of the mole tunnel. Failure to bed the trap adequately may cause a mole to dig under your trap if it perceives that the trap is blocking its way of travel in some manner.

You will know when you fail to do a basic setting procedure correctly as the mole will tell you if you are doing something wrong by their behavior reaction.



**A GOOD DAYS
WORK THANKS
TO THE MTP!**



"I took mole trapping instruction from Bob Jameson the Spring of 2015. It was truly a life changing experience. He gave me the tunnel pilot tool and showed me how to use it. The tunnel pilot tool is critical in my opinion. If I do not have it in my mole trapping basket I go back-and get it! There is no other way that I found to form the tunnel and put the mole in the proper position to be caught. There is no other way to insert the trap and have proper bedding. With Bob's instruction and MTP tool, there's no mole safe and I leave all my competition behind me."

Jacob Rosenberger, JR's Wildlife

PRESS RELEASE

Plunkett's Pest Control Acquires Best Way Animal Removal, Holland, MI



From left to right: Johnny McQuade (Varmant Guard Supervisor), Jared Miller (Varmant Guard Operations Director), Jack Waterway (owner of Best Way Animal Removal) Glen Geurink (Best Way Technician), Gabe Hartwig (Varmant Guard Supervisor)]

Plunkett's Pest Control has acquired Best Way Animal Removal, a Michigan-based wildlife company that provides full-service nuisance wildlife control and removal. This acquisition merges Best Way Animal Removal with Plunkett's wildlife division, Varmant Guard Wildlife Services, and expands Varmant Guard's service capabilities for nuisance wildlife in Michigan.

Aly Silva-Mulgrew, president of Plunkett's Pest Control, says that "We are excited to have Jack Waterway and the Best Way Animal Removal team join Varmant Guard and Plunkett's. They bring years of great wildlife experience with them. We look forward to working with them and growing the Michigan market together."

Best Way Animal Removal owner, Jack Waterway, commented on the merger saying "With the relationships we have built at Best Way Animal Removal we were very concerned with handing over our service over to another company. I put my 30 plus years of police investigative experience to work and did an extensive background check on Plunkett's and Varmant Guard. I was blown away with what I found. Both of these companies put the customer and their employees first. Their values perfectly align with ours. We couldn't think of a better company with whom to merge. I look forward to continuing my animal related service career with Varmant Guard."

Jack Waterway worked for the Michigan State Police for 33 years before retiring and starting, owner and operator of Best Way Animal Removal, started the business in February of 2003. Best Way Animal Removal has specialized in bat and mole removal since opening their doors in 2003 and will be a great asset to the Varmant Guard team. Jack and one of his team members will be joining the Varmant Guard staff and continue to provide excellent service to Grand Rapids and the surrounding areas.

Founded in 1915 in Minneapolis, Minnesota, Plunkett's Pest Control is a privately-owned and operated corporation led by president Aly Silva-Mulgrew, and third-generation owner and board chair, Stacy O'Reilly. In 2018, Varmant Guard Wildlife Services joined the Plunkett's Pest Control family as their wildlife division.

Still based in Minneapolis, with regional offices in Columbus, OH and Farmington, NM, Plunkett's Pest Control and Varmant Guard Wildlife Services deliver professional pest and wildlife control services to over 70,000 residential and commercial clients in 18 states.



ROB ERICKSON'S ON TARGET A.D.C.

Baits by the gallon!!!

P.O. Box 469, Cortland, IL 60112

Phone & Fax (815) 286-3073

ON TARGET carries a full line of damage control baits and lures, many containing oils and essences from around the world! Our lures and baits are tested and proven on our own trapline, under every possible condition, in different parts of the country, to insure the results are the same nationwide. Because of this extensive testing, we are able to offer you the best products money can buy.

COON SB

Throughout the past year we have had fantastic results with this product. This lure has a very unique odor that is super attractive to raccoons while minimizing the capture of domestic cats. Many professionals have switched to this lure for those trap shy raccoons with excellent results. Give this stuff a try! We are sure you will be satisfied with its results.

1oz.....\$3.00..4oz.....\$10.00..16oz.....\$22.00

LIQUID GRUBS

Anyone who has been involved in this industry for any length of time knows how frustrating it is to try and capture a skunk while they are destroying a clients yard looking for grubs. I believe this product will drastically change your success ratio when trapping both grubbing and roaming skunks. This lure is not to be trailed into the trap. Place about a tablespoon at the back of the trap forcing the skunk to cross the pan to reach the lure. Give it a try, you will be more than satisfied!

1oz.....\$3.00..4oz.....\$10.00..16oz.....\$22.00..6oz jar.....\$5.50

RACCOON EVICTION LIQUID: For that mission impossible.

If you intend to be or have been in this business for any length of time, there will be a time when, in the spring of the year, you encounter a female raccoon that has had young in your client's attic. You have caught the female and located the young, but they are in a spot in the house that will require you to rent a bulldozer to tear down the house to retrieve those young! This is not a feasible option! In these cases the only option is to release the female and try to harass her to move the young, either to a more accessible location that you can retrieve them or out of the dwelling completely. Don't waste your time on radio's and moth balls. About one ounce of this product will make the female remove her family from the dwelling in no more than 48 hours. It almost always works on the first night but has not taken over two days yet. You must enter the attic to apply this liquid. Place the liquid on a tennis ball, then screw the ball to a large nylon piece of rope. Toss the ball in those hard to reach places near the den and retrieve. Do this in every spot of the attic except near the exit hole. In two days mark the hole to make sure there is no activity. Then seal up the hole. I hate to leave a job without the animal, but there are some situations you just can't control.

1oz.....\$10.00..4oz.....\$35.00..16oz.....\$120.00

AGED ANIMAL BATES IN 1 pt. Plastic Jars

\$8.00 each \$48.00 gallon

Shellfish Bait	Fermented Egg Flesh
Chicken Flesh Bait	Garganzola Flesh
Clam & Shrimp	Fish & Honey Flesh
Chicken & Fish Flesh	Tripple Treat Flesh Bait

SPECIALTY PASTE BAITS

Note: All paste baits come in 6 oz. plastic jars(enough for 15-20 sets)

Sweet Tooth (raccoon)	Honey Gland (skunk & raccoon)
Chuckster (woodchuck)	Squirrel Paste (Squirrel & gopher)
Very Berry Loganberry (raccoon)	Golden Maze (raccoon & skunk)
Tuti Fruit (raccoon)	Checita (raccoon & skunk)
Big Time (raccoon)	Bacon (raccoon, skunk, opossum)
Raspberry (raccoon & opossum)	Anise Paste (raccoon)
Bacon & Cheese (opossum, raccoon, skunk)	Strawberry (raccoon)
Apple (raccoon, woodchuck, muskrat)	

All paste baits: \$5.50 each; 2 jars-\$9.75; 6 jars-\$28.00;

12 jars-\$54.00; 1 Gallon \$60.00

Mix and Match!

None of these baits will catch cats!!

**By popular demand!!!
WE NOW OFFER PASTE
AND AGED BAITS BY THE
GALLON!**



**ROB ERICKSON'S
INNOVATIVE SKUNK
CONTROL BOOK
\$15.95 + \$3.95 shipping**

Follow Wildlife Control Expert Rob Erickson as he guides you through groundbreaking odorless skunk control methods never before shared with the public. With over 10,000 skunks to his credit, Erickson is the undisputed national expert in urban odorless skunk removal. Innovative Skunk Control describes in clear detail how to deal with skunks in all possible urban situations. Includes removal methods for skunks damaging lawns by digging for grubs, skunks trapped in window wells and inside buildings, and skunks roaming the neighborhood. Stopping skunk grubbing damage on golf courses and commercial properties is described at length. The book also includes a recipe for skunk odor removal, and a description of skunk biology and behavior.

SHIPPING: \$50.00 AND UNDER \$5.00, \$100.00 AND UNDER \$8.00, \$100.00 AND OVER \$10.00



**VISA AND MASTERCARD, AMERICAN
EXPRESS
& DISCOVER ACCEPTED**



email/wctech@ix.netcom.com web <http://www.wctech.com/>



FROM THE TOOLBOX

JACK AMMERMAN

5104 Woodstock Drive ■ Swartz Creek, MI 48473

BATS-BE-GONE.COM

At first glance, just by reading the headline above, it would be natural to assume that the topic here will be all about bats. However, that's not necessarily true. This article is about business. In particular, it is about advertising a business.

I don't know exactly how long I've owned the web domain "BATS-BE-GONE.COM," but it's been well over a decade. I've always had grand plans for its use and still think it's a money-maker, but the bat calls always seemed to flow to my phone steadily and regularly without putting this domain name into use. So this domain has been sitting idle in my GoDaddy "vault" for a long time. Of course, it's not my only idle domain, but this one is different. It has real value to someone other than myself.

At one time in the history of the Internet, domain names were relatively inexpensive, and search engines gave domain names great

relevance if the search terms were in a domain name. Before we get too far into the weeds on this, I feel responsible for reminding you that a domain name is simply the words that one types into a web browser to navigate to a website. For lack of a better analogy, typing www.bats-be-gone.com into a web browser gives that browser the address to navigate to, just as Google Maps needs a client's address to get you there. Once there, whether it's a client's property or a website, it's up to you to make the next move.

My Strategy

With domain names being relatively cheap (and they still are, by the way!) I decided one day to market my business to search engines. I had a couple of cities in my service area with higher mean incomes, meaning that a call from that area would result in someone who could pay my fees and more readily agree to do so! I wanted homeowners in these cities to find me before they found anyone else. Knowing what I knew about Internet search engines, I wanted someone in Davison, Michigan, that had raccoons to find me first on the web, so I bought "DavisonRaccoons.com" or "DavisonGroundhog.com." Each of these domains would lead homeowners directly to my main website. The strategy worked very well. It reached the point where GoDaddy was giving me a bulk discount because, as you can imagine, a massive amount of domain names can be thought up using a city and a problem animal.

While trimming some unused domains from my GoDaddy account a few months ago, I spied the unused Bats-Be-Gone.com domain. GoDaddy suggested that I could sell this domain for thousands of dollars on the open domain resale market. But, instead, I decided to give it away to someone like me. It didn't expire or need renewal for a few years, so whoever I gave it to could have me transfer it to their name and do as they pleased (including selling it on the open market, I guess!)

Call Number One

I googled a few wildlife control businesses by typing Bats-Be-Gone into the search window. I found a likely recipient with a bat business with the words of my domain in bold letters on his vehicle. I thought for sure that he'd jump at the chance to have the domain Bats-Be-Gone.com and be able to point it to his website. It was the perfect match! After explaining who I was and what I had and making the offer to transfer the ownership, I was met with unimaginable hostilities. "You can't own that. I own that! I've been in business since xxxx. This is MY business's name!" I tried to explain that many bat removal businesses throughout the United States use Bats Be Gone (or some form of it) as their name. He didn't understand and thought he had a lock on the whole U.S. regarding business names. Oddly enough, the poor guy doesn't even have a website. He relies on a Facebook page. There was



no getting him to understand or calm down, so I told him I'd offer it to someone else and have a nice day. Honestly, as mad as he was, I knew my call had just ruined his day.

Call Number Two

Another business popped up that was also outside of Michigan. The picture of the truck had bats all over it, and a close variation of Bats Be Gone on it. This guy had a website, but it didn't mention bats in the domain name. This would be a perfect marketing match if he took control of the domain and directed the search engine hits to his daily website. After once again explaining who I was and what I had for him, his response caught me off guard. "What kind of scam is this?" I reassured him that he could Google me, see who I was, and everything was up and up. I wanted to help out a fellow wild-

life control businessman. "I don't believe you," came his response. I laughed and told him that the offer was legit. He'd have a couple of years before the domain needed to be renewed, and he could drop it at that time if he didn't want it. I'd be out of the picture. It would be his decision. "No, I don't think I want to fall for whatever you're trying to pull." I was shocked and bid him a good day.

Call Number Three

The next call went to someone far in the Southwest of the United States. I want to tell you the name of his business because it was a VERY good fit for Bats-Be-Gone.com, but you'll have to take my word for it. The business owner answered and asked me who I was and what I was trying to give him. He was polite and calm and simply asked, "You own this, and you just want to give it to me? Why?"

It was a logical question, and I thought I had already covered the answer, but I explained it further. "I'm closer to the end of my wildlife career than the beginning. I don't need this domain any longer. It's not costing me anything, but as it stands, it's not being productive either. If you want it, I'll give it to you, and you can use it however you want to help your business." The phone went silent momentarily, and he said, "No, that's all right. But thank you for calling." Call three was strike three, and I abandoned my quest to give away a great domain.

The offer is still there if you see the value in a domain like Bats-Be-Gone.com. Get ahold of me. I'm giving it away. But, to whoever winds up with it, I have no doubts that, if marketed correctly, it will increase your incoming calls for bat work. ■



Reed-Joseph INTERNATIONAL COMPANY

But we're still here for you...

505 Mountain Industrial Drive
P.O. Box 1530
Brevard, NC 28712

800-647-5554 / 828-885-3300



reedjoseph.com



URBAN COYOTE MANAGEMENT

URBAN COYOTE SOLUTIONS

BILL CHRISTMAN CWCP

1544 23RD ST ■ Bettendorf, IA 52722

Bill@UrbanCoyoteSolutions.com • 309.721.6970

UrbanCoyoteSolutions.com

HEART SHOT

About two weeks before my article is due for the next issue of *Wildlife Control Technology* magazine, I start thinking about what I will write about. Although there are all types of potential topics, I want to ensure that I cover something that will offer some help, guidance, or inspire someone in some way. In short, I always want to ensure that I'm writing something interesting and usable information to the reader. So, if any of you reading this article, or any article I write for that matter, have questions, concerns,

or anything at all, please feel free to reach out to me, and I'll be happy to discuss.

This article aims to share a method of dispatch for a coyote that is not only quick and humane but bloodless. Of course, dispatching a coyote by gunshot or shooting him in the heart isn't anything new. Still, I find it interesting that so many people I have talked with, both hunters and trappers, are surprised when they find out exactly where the heart is located on a coyote. Everybody seems to react similarly: "I'll be damned, I thought

it was behind the front shoulder"! Truth be told, I had the same reaction some time ago.

Several years ago, while visiting my friend John in Montana, he impressed upon me to start shooting the coyotes that I caught in the heart instead of the head—saying that it was as quick as a headshot and no external bleeding. I've always understood that shooting coyotes in the head is messy and makes handling them later on even more labor-intensive during the cleaning process, but it was a quick dispatch. Just lights out. I believe if I'm going to kill an animal, then kill it quickly. Although John knew the general area of where the heart was on a coyote, he didn't know the exact location. He told me that when you hit the heart, it's as quick as a headshot; they fall over. We'll get into that later.

I started scouring the Internet, trying to find pictures of the exact heart location on a coyote. Unfortunately, the images are vague, and most of them show the heart positioned directly behind the front shoulder, which is far from correct. I wanted to find a picture of the heart and its exact placement.

I had decided that I was going to do a rough necropsy to see the exact location when I finally came across the **Figure 1** picture, which was shared by who else, a trapper! It's amazing how many hunters and trappers I have shared this



Figure 1.

picture with are amazed, as I was, to the heart's exact location on a coyote.

As you can see in the photo, the heart is significantly several inches behind the front shoulder, just in front of the lungs. At the time, I was embarrassed to say that I had no idea it was that far back! I've always assumed it was behind the front shoulder, but I didn't think to verify that.

Before running out and shooting the next coyote in one of my sets, I thought it might be important to take some practice shots. I placed a target approximately 10 feet away and got down into a kneeling position. This would mimic the distance between myself and the animal in most situations. Also, given the location of the heart, it seemed important to place the shot as level to the animal's heart as possible. Trying to shoot the heart while standing above the animal will almost guarantee a miss. You only wound the coyote if you hit too far to the right. If you hit too far to the left, you will kill the coyote because you will hit the lungs, but it will be a much slower death, and it will start bleeding profusely out of his mouth.

I have shot a great number of coyotes in the heart since then, and the same thing happens every time. The coyote will bite where he got hit by the bullet very quickly, then look up into the air and fall over like a tree. This all happens in split seconds. He is just on the ground, done and humanely dispatched. No blood whatsoever.

I have used several different bullets over the years and have settled on the CCI quiet 22 long rifle hollow point segmented, as I have found this to be the most effective bullet for this dispatch. There is much more certainty that the round will only go some of the way through the animal because of the segmenting. The segment-



Figure 2.

ing is fantastic in its entrance and quick destruction without the ability to continue traveling through the animal because of segmenting and low velocity. All the damage and blood are kept inside the carcass without external bleeding.

I want to thank Doc, a coyote trapper from New York, for providing picture 3 of his necropsy with the metal rod showing the path of travel directly through the middle of the heart on a coyote carcass.

I would also like to thank the trapper who provided the necropsy

picture of a coyote carcass showing the exact location of the heart on the animal and displacing the general myths of its actual location.

Again if you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me, and I'll be happy to discuss them. Thank you for following along! Stay safe, everybody! ■



AROUND THE CAGE TRAPS

PAUL WINKELMANN

8041 West Mequon Rd. ■ Mequon, WI 53097

TIPS N TRICKS

Once again, I would like to stress that these baits and methods are used in Southeast Wisconsin and may be less effective everywhere!

Squirrels: I caught 225 squirrels last year, and when you consider that I only have a few regular squirrel customers and am only called to other jobs when our technicians can't seem to catch the target squirrels, I am more than satisfied with that total! So what is my secret? It's very simple; When my lovely bride took away my ladders (before I got killed), I was forced to make some adjustments, as you can imagine! Would I be as successful not being able to set my squirrel cages on the roof? Absolutely! Sometimes I wonder if people know that squirrels not only



walk on the earth, but they also dig in it! Now I won't tell you that all of my cages are set on the ground because that's not the truth. When I look at the structure with the problem (it's not always a house), I figure out where the squirrel goes

when he leaves the building. This could be a tree, a wooden fence, a porch, or any of a million places!

I will likely tie my cages to fence rails and low tree branches or stake a couple on the ground around a tree I know the squirrels love. My success also lies in the bait I use. I spread peanut butter on the inside roof of the cage where the squirrel can smell it and see it. And guess what? It's right above the trip pan! I also have a black walnut with the casing still on and smeared with squirrel paste. The covering on the walnut is very important because the squirrels love chewing it off! The black walnuts are also large enough so the squirrels can see them when they look into the cage. So now you've got the smell of the black walnuts, the scent of the squirrel paste, and the smell of the peanut butter, all tempting that poor squirrel to come inside for a nibble.

The only way to keep him out is if a mouse is inside and the door





is shut. But don't worry about that! All you have to do is use a cage that the mouse can't get out of, show him to your customer, and you can probably sell a rodent control program to that customer too. I should mention that the cage we use to catch our squirrels and still hold our mice is the Model 101SS made by Tomahawk. This cage is 5 by 5 by 18 inches and is constructed of 1/2 inch by 1/2 inch wire! We have caught rats, ground squirrels, chipmunks, and various birds and other animals in these cages. That probably explains why it is our most popular cage!

This bait combination has proven effective in catching all four of our squirrel species. I found it amusing that I didn't know what kind of a squirrel was in the cage at two of my jobs last year until I walked up and made the proper identification. Two cages at each job caught reds, grays, and flying squirrels. It did not seem to matter what squirrel species was in the cage before; maybe it even helped!

I also catch quite a few chipmunks during the summer. The main difference in my chipmunk trapping is that I use vanilla wa-

fers instead of black walnuts. Our chipmunks seem to prefer this combination. I may also use that

combo if the customer wants me to remove any voles. However, I try to convince them to use bait boxes instead of cages. The only ground squirrels in our area are the 13-lined ground squirrels, and for whatever reason, they seem to be disappearing from the landscape. We rarely catch any ground squirrels, but then we basically have no moles in this area, either!

I have noticed that my catch has improved since I started to look inside my cages and see what the squirrels see. Many of you reading this use Conibears and other killing trap brands. However, it's been my experience that using cages gets me a lot more new customers. A squirrel screaming dirty words out of his cage draws their attention! ■

W.C.T. MAGAZINE

THE CHOICE OF PROFESSIONALS SINCE 1994



OFFERED IN PRINT &
DIGITAL FORMATS

Order on-line at
www.wctmagazine.com

SUCCESS STARTS WITH KNOWLEDGE

TOPICS INCLUDE:

Species Profiles
Trapping Methods
Equipment Reviews
Sales & Business Tips
Exclusion Techniques
Structure Repairs
Using Air Rifles
Harassment & More

MORE RAMBLES

by Gordon Betts

I wish there were a way to charge those who call for free advice, especially when it is suspected to be the competition.

We recently received a call from someone who wanted us to care for a woodchuck. He was located on the extreme edge of our range, and our prices are fixed accordingly. However, there is another NWCO up in that area, so we often give out his number, taken from his Facebook ad. We make it understood that we are not recommending them, just pointing them out as a closer service. We then say we would gladly do the job if the other guy is more expensive or

can't work them in. Later in the day, we got a call asking how much it would be to trap woodchucks in an area on the opposite side of our range. Not being much for coincidences, we suspect the competition was checking to see what they could charge and still be less than us.

We get calls all the time that still expect us to provide a service for free and think we work for the state. When we explain that we are an independent for-profit service like any other, most are understanding, but a few are not, and yet a few more get downright angry about it. Then there are the

ones who want to know how to do something. For example, when handling skunks in a cage, we always answer, "Very carefully." Then we point out that transporting an animal, except during the state's trapping season, and releasing it anytime off their property is illegal in New York unless they are a licensed NWCO and have the landowner's written permission. We've received some rude comments on that too.

We all have had the call where the person on the other end knows more than we do about doing the job. In sporadic

cases, this may be true. However, they are usually the people who have gone on Facebook or to an animal rights page and looked at all of the home remedies and how-to's out there. Our usual response to them is that when you catch the animal, call us, and we will remove it for you at a lesser fee (not much less) than we charge for trapping it.

If we are on location and someone tries to instruct us, we may play along. We make it understood that we are doing it exactly as they want us to, and our base price is the same whether we catch anything or not, and that it is a running tab for extended trapping. Usually, after a couple of days of not catching anything, they tell us to do it our way.

One exception to this was a job where we had traps set for nearly a month doing it their way and finally caught one woodchuck. We had made many suggestions on animal-proofing the outbuildings, which were ignored. The final bill was made out accordingly for our time and vehicle expenses, and we were paid under protest. They were told that it probably would have been cheaper if particular suggestions had been followed and that we didn't work for free.

Most recently, we were trapping raccoons for someone using a cheap box store one-catch trap. We removed their trap when we set ours. They then asked if their trap could be used to catch skunks. We told them, yes, but the trap should be covered. We were informed that it was easy to cover the trap after the animal was caught using a blanket. We agreed it was one way to do things and dropped the subject. The next day it is raining, and we get a call asking us to remove

Learn the Business of Wildlife Control

Available online at

<https://wildlifetraining.thinkific.com/>



\$59.00

Running A Wildlife Control Business - Updated 2020

An updated version of our popular Running a Wildlife Control Business DVD with more than 45 minutes of NEW information. Downloads include a digital copy of the 2013 DVD, audio file of the NEW course, sample employee manual and much more.

24
Lessons

the skunk in their trap when we come to adjust our raccoon traps. We agree to do so as long as the trap is covered when we get there. It wasn't, but they said that they would do it. Watching the person covering the trap made us cringe. It was only the grace of the animal involved that kept them from being sprayed.

We had a call the other day about a bat in an attic. The whole story sounded fishy and even more so when we asked for particulars about what was happening. They wanted prices and to know how we would write the receipt. The price was deliberately bumped up, and we told them exactly how a receipt would be written—basically, that we would not lie! The house was for sale, and the inspector for a prospective buyer had supposedly seen two bats in the attic. At this point, they tell us they will get back to us.

Over a month passed, and we got the same call again. This time we set up an appointment for the next day to remove the bats, which was rescheduled in the morning for the following day. On that day, we got to the location at the appointed time. Unfortunately, the person who was supposed to meet us isn't there and is not answering his phone. Finally, the tenant in the house let us into the attic.

As soon as the steps are pulled down, it is evident that there are bats there. We are halfway up the steps when a look-up shows a bat hanging from the center ridge beam. For all of the years we have been going into attics, the number of times this has happened can be counted on one hand.

The crazy thing was when the second bat was found hanging there; two runs down from the first. They are caught and removed, and we leave. The bill was made out and sent to the seller's agents, who are picking up the tab but

couldn't tell me who made the actual appointment. The next time all of the info will be gotten up front. We got lazy and expected the seller to make the appointment. This may be a lesson in business, and we will see if we get paid.

A more recent job for chipmunks has proven how effective the majority of sonic devices are for rodent control. The noise machine is set up less than two feet from a chipmunk hole. A chipmunk box is set up a foot from the hole. Then the hole is filled to see if it is still being used. The next day the hole was dug out, and we had a mouse in the box. All within two feet of a machine that is supposed to keep rodents away, and yes, it was plugged in and operating. We also caught a chipmunk in that box two days later as well.

Another day we received a referral call wanting us to look for a bat. It had shown up about 7 AM, and it was now 9 AM, and they had lost track of it. It was in a business that was shut down until we could look for the bat. Arriving about an hour after the call, we spent the next hour and a half searching the 20,000-square-foot (give or take) gym, locker rooms, and tanning areas. Do you think looking in a 168-square-foot bedroom is fun? Wow! It was a lost cause, but we looked.

There was much more open space than in many places we've looked for a bat compared to some houses. A bill was submitted, and we left, hoping it was the end. The following day we got a call at 7 AM from the same place saying the gym (open all night, it seems) closed at midnight because the bat had returned. Getting there at about 8:30 AM, we again searched the area.

This time we get fortunate and found it hanging in the open on a composite support beam about 15 feet in the air. When we pointed

it out to the manager, they were amazed at how small it was compared to what it had looked like when flying.

The intruder was successfully removed, and a second bill was submitted for our services. To say we got lucky is an understatement. The gym is in a strip mall, and there are many places where a bat can go. Drop ceilings, plumbing runs, air conditioning vents, corrugated roof in one place, vented lockers, and much more, most inaccessible for search, and a lot of it connects to the rest of the mall. Hopefully, this was the only one, and we won't be looking for the proverbial needle in the haystack again.

We caught a gray fox a day ago from under a cottage along the Big Lake. We thought it was a woodchuck because of the hole size and were surprised when a small mature gray fox was in our trap the following day. It was a tight fit, but the all-purpose Comstock double door paid off again.

The year-to-date most interesting call was from a lady that said she had a large 4 to 5-foot snake hibernating under the rug in her living room. She said it appeared three days before and went to sleep because of the air conditioning in that room. We tried to talk her out of it, but she insisted we come and look. After giving her an inspection price, she was told it would be charged no matter what we found. In our area, it is very, very unlikely to be a snake that large and more so one that had hung around for three days without moving. After moving a couch and pulling back the rug, it was revealed that the hardwood flooring had buckled for some unknown reason. The lady was relieved, we got paid, and everybody was happy. We see and hear it all in this business. ■

LEFT OR RIGHT PAW DOMINANT

by John R. Consolini

You've found the perfect place to make a dirt hole set for a coyote, fox, or bobcat. So you clear the spot, dig a hole twelve 12 inches or so deep, dig out the place for the trap, stake the trap, set the trap, swift the dirt over the trap, put bait in the hole, lure the outside of the hole on the backing and you're done. You grab everything and go down the road to the next spot for another dirt hole set.

The next trip back to check your traps, you find that your trap is pulled out, set off, and there is nothing in the trap. You ask yourself, "What happened here? It's the perfect place. I've got backing, so it couldn't come from the backside, and had to walk around to the front. The trap was set in front of the hole about seven to nine inches back from it and bedded solid, so it didn't rock. The hole is 12 inches deep, so how did I miss that coyote?" You have been setting dirt hole sets this way for years. Have you ever asked yourself why? Where did you learn how to set up a dirt hole set? At a trapper's convention, trapping partners, a relative, or read it in a book? Have you ever thought about why you always make the same set the same way and never any other way?

I heard a radio show host a while back asking people, "What is one crazy thing you learned in life that you have to laugh about?" That got me thinking about how we are taught different things in life that we carry on, and some with no rhyme or reason why we do it, except that is the way we were taught.

This gal calls up the station and says, "I got one," she says. "I got married about five years ago, and one day on Easter, my husband



asked me, "Why do you cut off about 4-5 inches from the back of the ham all of the time, wrap it up, and put it in the freezer for another day?" She told him, "That is how my mother taught me." He said, "Did you ever ask her why she does it that way? I told him, no, but I'm going to ask her." So she called her mom the following day and asked why she always did it this way. Mom said, "I always purchased a big ham for the family meal, and I didn't have a big enough roasting pan for it, so I would cut off the end, wrap it up, and put it in the freezer for another day." I think I am still laughing at that answer. It's a great example that we pass on what we learn.

So, where did you learn how to make a dirt hole set? Either way, it doesn't matter, but did anyone tell you why they did it their way? Did they ever say right or left foot/paw will catch more males than females? Back to your dirt hole set. Right after you dug the dirt hole, did you ask yourself if you should

set the trap on the left side, in front, or on the right side of the hole? Are you after a male or female coyote?

Years ago, I played with my dog and said, "Let's shake; give me your paw." When she did, she would lead with her left paw; then I would say, "No, your other paw," and she would give that one to me. I waited awhile and then repeated my question, "Let me have your paw," Again, she would lead with her left paw. Finally, after asking her to shake several times, I concluded she was left-pawed. A lightbulb went off in my head as I realized I might have answered my question on why I missed that one or two coyotes out on the line.

I've been in the ADC business for 40 years and have repeatedly seen the same patterns with animals. For example, if a female raccoon has a litter in a hollow tree out in farmland or other rural areas, her offspring will have their litters in a hollow tree. Urban raccoons are the same. If her litter is in an attic, her offspring will have theirs

in the attic. If she has them down in someone's chimney, her offspring will have them in a chimney; if she has them in a crawl-space under a house, they will have them there when they are ready to breed and have their litter. They learn from their mother just like we learn from our parents and our peers.

I have two cats, and both are interesting to watch in how they do things differently, just like us. Interestingly, the younger one learned from the older one, including his bad habits. When it is dinner time, the older one will go into the kitchen, sit next to its bowl, and wait for you to feed him; the little one will do the same thing now. When he wants attention and wants me to pick him up, the older one reaches out with his left paw and touches me. He will lie on the couch next to me and put his left leg straight out onto me; he has to touch me so he knows where I'm at. The younger one is also left-pawed. Both are male cats.

Did you know that 90% of humans are right-hand dominant and 10% are left-hand dominant? So, are dogs right-paw dominant and cats left-paw dominant, or are they just like humans? Have you ever wondered about that, and if you knew, you could increase your capture rate?

Several studies have shown what percentages of animals are left or right-paw dominant. For example, some dog studies showed that male dogs were 70% right-paw dominant. However, other studies show that dogs are divided equally (50%) of either left or right-pawed between males or females. So, that might explain why they do so when you ask your dog to shake and then tell them the other paw.

Cats, on the other hand (paw), are different. As high as 70% of male cats strongly favor their left paw, whereas 65% of female cats prefer their right paw. That ex-

plains my two male cats.

So, where should you place your trap at the next dirt hole, and why that side? Again, let's go with the coyote as an example. Let's say you know it is a male coyote killing livestock. Let's say that we go along with the 70% of them are right paw dominant, then I would put my trap on the left side of the dirt hole, which is why. If it is right paw dominant, when they approach the dirt hole and look inside, they are going to put their "left" paw down with a lot of pressure to balance on so they can use their "right" dominant paw to dig out the bait that is in the hole, catching him almost instantly on his left foot.

If you're trapping bobcats and set up a dirt hole, then you should

put your trap on the right side of the hole if you want only the male cat. If you don't care what cat, male or female, you get, set your trap on either side of the hole. Still, if you don't want to catch the females, you might want to think about setting your trap on the right side of the hole because that is where he is going to put his paw down with the most pressure on it and dig out the bait in the hole with his left foot.

So to increase your chances of catching that one big male bobcat or male coyote, remember left or right side of that dirt hole set is where you set the trap will make all of the difference. ■



'M's Help Bats Hang On' Tee

our cause

White-nose syndrome continues to cause mass mortality and precipitous population declines throughout eastern North America and adjacent Canada. Previously common species are presently at risk of regional extirpation or extinction. Our fightwns initiative strives not only to financially contribute to the fight against and understanding of this devastating disease, but to highlight bats as incredible and essential components of our ecosystems.

FIND US

fightwns.org
(505) 414 8144
contact@fightwns.org
facebook/fightwns.org
twitter/fightwns
pinterest/fightwns



AAC DISTRIBUTING®

PREMIUM WILDLIFE EXCLUSION PRODUCTS



Protect Homes Against Wildlife Entry



AND
MORE



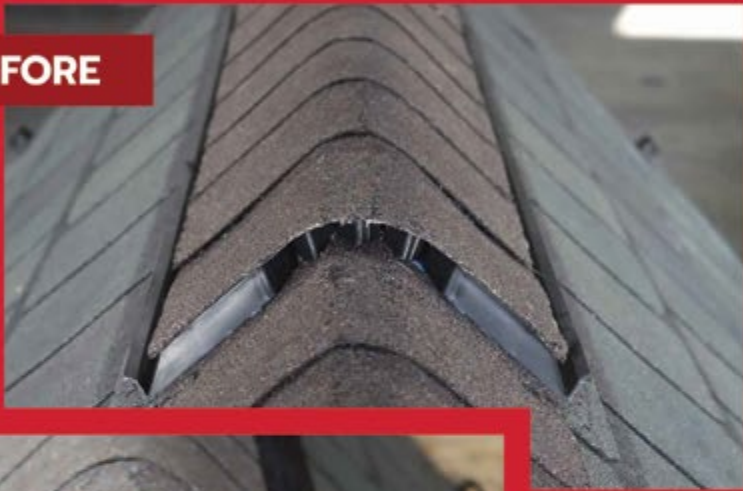
Learn more about us
and our products here:

aacdistributing.com

The Original **RIDGE-GUARD®**

Made in USA Supporting the American Workforce

BEFORE



AFTER



Contact Jack to Learn More

JACK SEARLS
Sales & Training Expert
(574)-518-4843
jack.searls@aacdistributing.com



Add Certified Ridge-Guard®
Installer to your Qualifications!



ON-SITE
YOUR FACILITY



IN-HOUSE
OUR FACILITY



VIRTUALLY
ZOOM OR TEAMS

ANIMALS IN CHIMNEYS

by Eric Arnold

One of the most challenging wildlife removal jobs for new and experienced operators is the removal of animals and birds from chimneys. Although these calls generally start becoming more frequent in February and last through June in my area, they can occur at any time of the year.

Some of the most obvious equipment needed to handle these jobs include bite-proof gloves, traps, ladders, sheets, a good (HEPA preferred) vacuum cleaner, and a good light. Other not-so-obvious equipment includes inspection mirrors/selfie stick/action camera, smoke shelf scraper, chimney rods, fall protection, scaffolding, specialty ladders, specialty traps, capture net, respirator, goggles, Tyvek suit, split pins, pliers, ham-

mer, screwdriver, padding, caller, chimney camera, digital camera, and/or video camera. Whereas all this equipment is not usually needed for every job, not having it when needed may mean another trip out to the customer.

Before discussing removal and prevention methods, the operator must understand what makes up a standard fireplace. I say "standard" because today, we see more fake fireplaces, chimneys, and gas exhausts. For this article, a fireplace is a structure enclosed with brick or stone that allows or did allow for smoke caused by the burning of wood to be vented outside the structure. The standard fireplace comprises the following components: ash pit cleanout door, ash pit, ash dump, firebox, damper, smoke shelf, smoke chamber, flue

liner, and chimney. Additional items each fireplace may have include spark arrestor screens or doors, grates, fireplace cranes, and wood stoves or inserts.

Let's look at each item closely, starting at the bottom. On the bottom of most fireplaces is a "trap door" that opens by pressing down on one side of it. This trap door is known as the ash dump door. The ash dump door allows the removal of wood ash from the firebox by simply opening it and sweeping the ash into it. The ash falls down the open door into an area known as the ash pit. Over time, the ash will build up and need to be removed. This is accomplished by opening the ash pit cleanout door (usually located in the basement or out-

Continued on page 26



SPORTSMEN'S
ALLIANCE

JOIN THE ALLIANCE

HELP PROTECT YOUR HUNTING, FISHING AND TRAPPING RIGHTS

_____ \$35 - Supporting
_____ \$50 - Protecting
_____ \$100 - Advancing
_____ \$250 - Sponsor

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Ph. (____) _____
Email _____

☐ My check for \$_____ is enclosed for a membership to the Sportsmen's Alliance.
*(Please make checks payable to the Sportsmen's Alliance.
Mail to Sportsmen's Alliance, 801 Kingsmill Parkway, Columbus, Ohio 43229
or call us at (614) 888-4868.)*

☐ Please charge my \$_____ membership to my credit card.

☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ Am. Ex. ☐ Discover
Card No. _____
CVC _____ Exp. _____
Signature _____

SPORTSMENSAALLIANCE.ORG

Join the WCT ONLINE TRAINING CENTER

A cutting-edge, Internet based, training solution open 24/7/365

- **Specifically designed to host a variety of classes, from a variety of presenters, related to the wildlife control industry, pest control industry, and other courses of special interest.**
- **Take and complete courses around your schedule. No longer is there a need to wait, shut down, or take time off.**
- **Choose from a variety of courses covering multiple topics such as business, trapping, marketing, exclusion, wildlife management principles, shooting, species specific courses, and more.***
- **Print a Certificate of Completion with specific courses.**
- **Pause a course at anytime and pick up right where you left off at a later date.**
- **Participate in course specific chats and video conferences.**

(* Not all courses have been published at the time of this notice. New courses will appear as they become available. Check the course description to see if a Certificate of Completion is included with the course.)

Disclaimer: Course material does not represent the views, opinions, or beliefs of WCT Group, Inc. By using the site, viewer agrees to hold WCT Group, Inc. and their affiliates harmless from any injuries or other issues resulting from information presented. Due to differing state laws, WCT Group, Inc. makes no claim that the courses contain correct and/or legal information. WCT Group, Inc. reserves the right to add, modify, or remove courses at anytime.

**Interested in creating a class or having us host an existing one?
Contact us at wildlifetraining@zoominternet.net for more details.**

Get started by going to <https://www.wctmagazine.com>, click on the **Online Training** button, then choose the **Online Courses** to be taken to the training site.

To create an account, click on the *Sign In* option at the top right of the page then choose:

Create a new account.

After successfully creating an account, select your course and start learning today!

CHIMNEYS:*Continued from page 24*

side) and vacuuming the accumulated materials.

Next, the fireplace area where the wood is burned is known as the firebox. This area is composed of special bricks that can take the temperatures produced by burning wood without receiving damage. Above the firebox is the damper. The damper is a steel or cast iron plate that controls the amount of draft created by the chimney. Above the damper is a large chamber generally referred to as the smoke box or smoke chamber. The bottom of this chamber is known as the smoke shelf. Attached to the top of the smoke chamber is the flue liner. The flue liner allows the smoke to leave the structure and not reenter the building. Most flue liners are made of square, or rectangular clay tiles stacked one on top of another, but if there was a problem with the liner, it might have a stainless steel insert known as a reliner. Lastly, the chimney is the brick or stone surrounding and supporting the flue liner.

Having a good understanding of fireplaces, the operator can ask the right questions and determine the best price for each situation. When dealing with clients on the phone, questions such as where do you hear the noise coming from or is the animal trapped inside the firebox have more meaning (note: you will probably have to educate the client about fireplace construction before being able to ask specific questions). Follow-up questions such as does the fireplace have a damper, and if so, is it closed or how high is the chimney above the roof give insight into what materials and equipment will be needed for the job. Combine this with a good understanding of potential animal issues, and the operator is

all set.

When dealing with fireplace jobs, safety should be paramount. Before putting any ladders or weight against the chimney, inspect it for cracks, loose or missing mortar, or any signs of it not being stable. Inspect the roof to ensure it will support not only your weight but also the weight of all the equipment needed for the job. If the animal or bird is in the smoke chamber, the firebox may need to be cleaned, spark arrestor screens or doors propped open, and the grate and/or damper removed before the animal can be removed. Keeping the house as clean as possible is the number one concern with most clients, regardless of whether the animal is caught. Constantly reminding oneself of this fact while trying to limit the amount of soot, dirt, and animal byproducts tracked around the house will be the best public relations the operator can get. Check for rusted or missing parts, missing mortar, and loose bricks before beginning any work. Wear goggles, gloves, and a respirator while working in the firebox. Remember that one trip to the ER will likely take any profit (and most likely more) that would have been made from the job (now think what an extended stay would cost)! Not to mention the owner insisting they receive compensation for damages caused by the operator. Don't think that because the client signed a contract stating the operator is not responsible for damages does not prevent the client from suing; it doesn't. Legal fights are time-consuming and expensive even for the winner, but by taking some simple precautions, most situations can be avoided.

As for what can be found inside chimneys, here is a partial listing of the species and locations commonly found. Squirrel – ash pit, firebox, smoke chamber. Raccoon – firebox, smoke shelf, flue liner.

Opossum – firebox, smoke shelf. Wood duck – smoke chamber, flue liner. Dove – smoke chamber, flue liner. Starling – ash pit, firebox, smoke chamber, flue liner. Owl – smoke chamber, flue liner. Chimney Swift – smoke chamber, flue liner. (Note: do not try to remove chimney swifts without a federal depredation permit. They are federally protected, make nests in the smoke chamber, and can leave in search of food and water.)

How animals will need to be removed depends on the type of animal and where it is located. At times, applying a repellent is enough to force the animal to relocate, while at other times, a more hands-on approach may be needed. Also, there are times when multiple methods must be performed, such as a female coon with a litter on the smoke shelf. This may involve trapping the female and then removing the kits by hand. Due to space issues, a future article will be needed to discuss some of these methods in more detail.

Once the animal(s) has been removed, additional services and products can be offered, such as cleanup, repairs, and caps. There are multiple chimney supply companies where these products can be obtained. Just make sure to know and follow state/local ordinances beforehand. For instance, in certain parts of my state, a construction license is required to install chimney caps, whereas, in other areas, no special licensing is required.

Based on location, removing animals from chimneys can be a standard service for the wildlife control operator. Although it can present unique challenges each time, having the proper equipment and attitude can make it very lucrative. ■



Finding the right insurance program just got easier. That's The Silver Lining.

This specialized program comes from West Bend Mutual Insurance Company, a company focused on providing the right insurance coverage for critter control operations.

West Bend provides

- Great pricing;
- Exceptional coverage;
- Convenient payment options; and
- Experienced claims professionals.

Your business is unique and deserves specialized attention. Let us tailor the coverage for the specific services you provide.

For more information, or to request a quote, contact:

Bob & Sons Insurance Agency • (260) 726-3718
141 E. Main St. • Portland, IN 47371 • bobandsons@embarqmail.com

This program is available in Wisconsin, Arizona, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, North Carolina, Ohio, Tennessee, and Virginia.



THE SILVER LINING®

Continued on page 28

SKUNK CONTROL 101

by Eric Arnold

One of the first calls a control operator receives involves skunk removal. Unlike other wildlife complaints, skunk calls tend to be very seasonal. The breeding season marks the beginning of skunk calls, usually at the end of January through the first weeks of March. This is followed by the young of the year beginning to emerge from the dens in late May through June. Finally, skunk calls seem to drop after grubs appear to have been at their yummiest in August and September. Before we get into handling these types of calls, let's discuss some basic skunk biology.

General Skunk Biology

There are five different species of skunks in North America. They are the Striped Skunk, Eastern Spotted Skunk, Western Spotted Skunk, Hooded Skunk, and Hog-nosed Skunk. All skunks have two grape-sized glands that contain the indescribable (but very recognizable) essence of butyl mercaptan. These glands are located on either side of the anus, which the skunk has complete control over. Whether it is a jet of continuous liquid or a misting cloud, skunks can spray (up to 20 feet) several times if necessary and have an accuracy that would make an Olympic archer jealous.

A skunk's diet consists mainly of insects, larvae, and animal matter mixed with some plant material (grasses, fruit, vegetables, etc.). Skunks are opportunistic feeders who usually extinguish a food source before finding another one. A skunk's range will vary based on sex, habitat, and geographic location. On average, an urban skunk will have a range of two square

city blocks, while a skunk in the more open territory can have a 1/2 square mile or greater range. Generally speaking, males have a greater range than females, but both sexes will not travel far from water. Males tend to be solitary animals that defend their territories, especially from other males. Females have a high tolerance for other females and can commonly be found together during the breeding season. Skunks do not hibernate; however, they will den either by themselves or with other skunks during inclement or cold weather until they can forage again. Den sites include borrows that the skunk has dug itself, abandoned groundhog or fox borrows in addition to hollow logs, rock piles, and open garages or sheds, to name a few.

Skunks are nocturnal animals but will occasionally be active during daylight hours. Adult skunks weigh between 2 and 10 pounds on average, with several topping the scales at over 14 pounds. Life expectancy is 8 to 10 years in suitable habitats, with the normal closer to 2 to 3 years. Skunks have very few natural predators, with the Great Horned Owl being number one on the list (automobiles are not classified as natural predators). However, skunks can carry rabies and distemper, so caution should be used when they are encountered, and a safe distance should always be maintained.

Striped Skunk

This is the largest and most common skunk in North America and Ohio. Striped skunks are also known by the common names of Polecat and Wood Pussy. Its range includes all the lower 48 states and

portions of Canada. With the body size of a family cat, the striped skunk is easily identified by the solid white lines that form a V shape from its head back to the tail on an otherwise black body.

Striped skunks have an overall length of 20 to 30 inches, with 7 to 10 inches being the tail. They have five toes on each front foot equipped with long curved claws and five toes on each hind foot with shorter and straighter claws. The wedge-shaped skull contains 34 teeth. Vision is poor, hearing is weak, and smelling ability is mediocre.

Mating generally occurs in February and March, depending on the weather, with a gestation period of approximately 63 days. The babies are born with little hair and are blind and deaf but quickly develop and will leave the den site to follow their mother after 6 - 8 weeks. Litters may contain from 2 - 12 kits, with the average being 8 in my experience. Female kits may remain and share winter dens with their mother, but males are chased out during the normal fall dispersion (September - November).

Striped skunks generally give several warning signs before launching their chemical attack. These include stamping the front feet, clicking of teeth, hissing, and lifting the tail. In addition, skunks look at their targets and bend their bodies into a "U" shape while lifting their tail when ready to release their surprise.

Removal

Today, several specialty traps are available for skunk removal made out of plastic or PVC pipe. The theory behind these traps is twofold. The first theory is that the

solid trap keeps it nice and dark, which keeps the skunk calm. The second theory is that if a skunk sprays, the odor will not stay at the client's once the skunk and trap have been removed. Some operators use these traps exclusively and with great success. However, skunks can be removed with 120 or larger body-gripping traps and any style of cage trap they fit in. Here I'll offer a word or two of caution. If using body-gripping traps, expect skunks to spray 50% or more of the time they are captured. Where the jaws grip along with the power of the springs has a lot to do with the skunk "letting go" once caught. Also, I've found that it is often better to use as small a cage trap (generally a 7 x 7 or 8 x 8) as possible for the job. Although skunks will spray when their tail is down, I've noticed they do not spray as often in the smaller traps.

When asked what my favorite bait for skunks is, my frequent answer is none. The reason I say this is straightforward. Trap placement and guiding materials are much more important when trapping skunks than bait in most situations. The exceptions would be when trapping transient or grubbing skunks. In these situations, bait is required as there is no other way to get the animal to enter the trap. Unfortunately, these are also the most challenging skunk conflicts to resolve. Yes, it is possible to get lucky, but eventually, luck runs out, and nothing is worse than a complaining client wondering why it is taking so long when their friend, who had a similar problem, had someone come out and remove the skunks that night.

My favorite way to remove skunks is to locate their den site and place a trap directly in the den hole (note: this requires a unique trap like a 4 x 4 x 24-inch). When this is not possible, I like to use cardboard as a guide system forc-

ing the skunk into the trap. To do this, I generally cut the cardboard so that it is a minimum of 16 inches high and as short as possible to allow the first three inches of the trap, along with the open door, into the run. The cardboard is then staked in place by bending it into an L shape and then using T-stakes to pierce the L on the two outsides with one T-stake on the inside for support. This technique forces the skunk to "walk" down the guides right into the trap. I also place another trap directly across from the "guide" trap, with the door facing the opposite direction in case the skunk is trying to enter the structure. If I am going to bait the set, the bait goes in the second trap, not the first.

All skunks must be put down per the Ohio Administrative Code or released on-site in Ohio. Since I've been hired to remove the animals, a release is not an option. Instead, the dispatch occurs at my office, away from the customer's eyes. As my skunk traps have aluminum covers on them, when I have caught a skunk, I pick up the trap and place it in the bed of my truck. I used to carry a light-colored sheet to cover the trapped animals, but now when a skunk is in a trap that does not have a cover, I move it to one that does. Several videos on my YouTube channel ([youtube.com/channel/UCWou-TIK7B1SIXDaXhev5akQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWou-TIK7B1SIXDaXhev5akQ)) show how I do this.

The key is to make sure the skunk is aware of your presence before trying to move it. This eliminates startling the skunk and have it automatically let loose!

Dispatch

Several different methods can be used for dispatching skunks. However, it is important to understand that not all dispatch methods are legal in all states and that no dispatch technique guarantees the

skunk will not spray.

The method most often discussed is injection. Several companies have created devices to make this easier, but placement is critical to success like other methods.

Before using this method, check to see what chemical/drug is legal and follow the directions on the label.

Another popular method is to use a gas, usually CO or CO₂. In my experience, it is best to use a container slightly larger than the trap and to precharge the chamber before placing the trap into it. When using this method, test the trap fit beforehand, and when using CO₂, keep the lid loose. As CO₂ is heavier than air, it will sink to the bottom, displacing the air, which then will need to escape the chamber. By leaving the lid loose, the air will be forced from the chamber.

Remember that skunks can survive in low-air environments, so it may take longer for a skunk to succumb to CO₂ than a raccoon.

Currently, my favorite method for putting down skunks is an air rifle. But, again, you can see videos of how fast a properly placed shot can put the skunk down on my YouTube channel.

When using air rifles of a firearm, make sure not to hit the spine or head. Doing so will cause the skunk's muscles to contract and spray. Also, remember that a skunk's heart is low in its chest, so aim for the bottom third of its chest, just past where its leg is.

I've also found that .22 air rifles tend to work better than any other caliber. I don't know why that is so, but .25 caliber pellets and slugs often cause the skunk to release essence, and .177 caliber pellets usually require multiple shots, which then stress the skunk into letting loose.

■

Fur Takers of America Trappers College

September 10-16, 2023

Tuition - \$1,850



NOTE TO CHAPTERS & AFFILIATES:

The Trappers College has three slots for Furbearer Biologists and/or someone who has an influence on the future of trapping. The local Chapter or Affiliate pays half, and the FTA covers the other half, and the biologist attends for free.

(Transportation not included.)

Contact Cristina ASAP if interested!



Interested in the
Charles & Pat Park Memorial Scholarship?

Go to furtakersofamerica.com for
details and application.



For information about
FTA Trappers College, visit
furtakersofamerica.com
and click on "Trappers
College" or contact:

Cristina M. Jones
Business Executive
Fur Takers of America
PO Box 6, Oxford, NJ 07863
Phone (908) 982-8753

E-mail:
ftatrapperscollege@gmail.com



CHEMICAL VERTEBRATE CONTROL

by WCT Staff

Chemical vertebrate control may be a phrase most operators are not familiar with. This article will help define what chemical vertebrate control is and who is able to offer and perform these types of services.

The term vertebrate refers to any animals that possess backbones. For example, birds, skunks, and snakes would be types of vertebrates, while worms, snails, and yellow jackets are not.

Chemical vertebrate control is the act of using chemicals to manage vertebrates in places where the activity of these animals is undesired. Public concern for the welfare of animals and the risks to people, pets, and other non-targets during chemical vertebrate control has resulted in stringent rules regarding this activity.

Chemical vertebrate control is regulated by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), generally through each state, through the enforcement of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). In addition, each state may have different laws that would affect the operator wishing to provide chemical vertebrate control.

One of FIFRA's features is that it states the requirements under which pesticides can be registered. Before any chemical control can be used, it must first be registered with the USEPA. Part of the registration process includes establishing safe use procedures with the product and incorporating that information on the label. This means that as long as the label is followed, no unreasonable harm should be caused to people or the environment.

Proper labeling is required as FIFRA, and state laws require that control chemicals be used according to label directions. It violates FIFRA and state laws to use control chemicals in any manner inconsistent with their label directions. Labels include where the product may be used, the maximum rate/amount that may be used, and how the product is to be applied. It is the violation of federal and state law to apply control products in any manner that violates a direct prohibition on the label. When using chemical control, THE LABEL IS THE LAW.

There are two classifications with the USEPA for products used as chemical control; Restricted Use and General Use. Restricted Use products are more likely to cause harm to people or the environment unless a licensed applicator or someone under the direct supervision of a licensed applicator applies it. General Use products are not as dangerous as Restricted Use products; however, they can cause substantial damage to people or the environment if applied or mishandled.

Most states require that any chemical control applied for a fee must be applied by a commercial applicator or a trained service person under the direct supervision of a certified applicator. In addition, FIFRA requires that only licensed applicators can be involved in purchasing Restricted Use products. Anyone that violates FIFRA and state laws will be subject to criminal charges, civil penalties, and/or revocation of their license and certification.

Chemical vertebrate control is highly regulated and falls under the jurisdiction of the USEPA (through

FIFRA) and state laws. Therefore, individuals wishing to provide this service must have a commercial applicator license and follow federal, state, and local regulations. ■

Stop **PAYING** your clients for the privilege of dealing with their bat issues and start getting **PAID** instead!

Go to:

<https://wildlifetraining.thinkific.com>
and **SIGN UP TODAY!**

INDEX OF ADVERTISERS

Bird Barrier of America	3
Bob & Sons Insurance.....	27
Fight WNS.....	21
Fur Takers of America.....	5, 30
Illustration in Motion	2
Jameson Ultra Lures	8,9
Nixalite® of America, Inc.	ISFC
On Target	11
Reed-Joseph International	13
Ridge Guard	22, 23
Sportsmens Alliance.....	24
Tomahawk Traps & Eqpt.....	4, 35
W.C.T. Online Training.....	18, BC
W.C.T. Magazine	170, 36
Wildlife Control Supplies	ISBC

Questions & Answers

Have a question on Wildlife Control work?

Email us at ask@wctmagazine.com or write us at PO Box 357, Sharon Center, OH 44274

Q: I have a client with a Spanish tile roof having a squirrel problem. I've sealed up all the entrances except for the areas the client will not let me address. Squirrels are still getting inside the house. What is the best way to find the hidden entrances they are using? **E.R., KY**

A: When looking for the entrance points, let the squirrels tell you where they are. If your schedule prevents you from being onsite long enough to watch the squirrels, consider installing security or trail cameras. Squirrels going under the roof tiles indicate that those tiles or openings need to be addressed. The squirrels can always create an opening while hiding underneath the tile until that happens.

Some of the most challenging jobs WCOs have to face are those where the client puts limitations on the services they will accept. In these cases, there are three options.

Option 1 is to educate the client on why all areas of the home squirrels could use to get inside need to be addressed. Next, show them how investing in the fix now will save them money over the animal trapping fees in the long run. Finally, should they object to the materials being used, see if other products could be used instead.

For instance, bird stops are devices made for tile roofs to prevent birds and other critters from going underneath the end tiles. They look better than 1/2-inch wire and clips. Flexim is reasonably priced and excellent for sealing valleys and ridge caps on tile roofs. Give the client several options if possi-

ble and include a service visit to re-evaluate the home and make any necessary repairs.

Option 2 is to keep providing animal removal services. If the client chooses this option, consider creating a program that guarantees you a set amount every month and includes additional trips as extra charges. We give this type of client a rate discount to help sell the program. Although you may have higher expenses at the beginning of the program, you should start seeing a higher return the longer the project continues. Consider setting a specific time frame of 6 or 12 months with an option to renew after reevaluating the situation. When offering this type of service, including an early termination fee of at least one month's worth of work is highly recommended. This way, should the client cancel the agreement once all the squirrels have been removed, you are still guaranteed to receive some additional income.

Option 3 is to walk away. If the client does not accept either of the previous options, they are setting an expectation level you cannot reach. Why keep fighting with them to turn the sky red when it isn't possible to do? All that will happen is that you'll get upset with them, and they will get upset with you for not resolving the problem. Then they will tell friends and family about how poor your services are. When you walk away, they may tell friends and family about their frustrations with you, but the story will only work when they leave out how you tried to resolve their problem, but they wouldn't do what you rec-

ommended. The funny part is that their friends and family will probably realize immediately that you tried to solve the issue but weren't allowed to. Individuals behaving this way don't limit it to a single service provider.

In terms of finding the entrance points, let the squirrels tell you where they are. If they can still get under the roof tile, it needs to be sealed so they cannot get under it. The squirrels can always create an opening while hiding underneath the tile until that happens.

Q: What types of traps would you recommend for someone just starting in wildlife control? **T.J., OH**

A: Before purchasing any traps, review your state laws to see what is legal. Next, decide what animals you plan on working with. If you aren't working with reptiles or birds, you don't need to worry about buying traps for them. You can always add them later should you change your mind.

There are five primary cage-style traps we recommend for wildlife control. First, we like a metal trap of about 3 x 3 x 10 inches for small rodents like chipmunks, voles, and mice. These traps are easy to blend into the surroundings and are particularly effective.

For tree squirrels, we recommend two different styles. A single catch spring-loaded door style 5 x 5 x 18 inches made with 16-gauge 1 x 1/2-inch wire and a multi-catch system with varying types of nose cones. We've had the best luck

Continued on page 34



FUR TAKERS OF AMERICA

55TH RENDEZVOUS



HOST HOTEL:

Best Western Plus Jefferson
1409 W. Junction Road
Jefferson, WI 53549
(920) 541-3900
(FTA Discount rate \$129/night + tax.)

June 22-24, 2023

Jefferson County Fairgrounds
503 North Jackson Ave., Jefferson, WI 53549

BRING THE WHOLE FAMILY!

Additional Hotels: (subject to change without notice)

Comfort Suites — \$125/night + tax, 725 Paradise Lane, Johnson Creek, WI (920) 699-2800
Holiday Inn Express — \$148/night + tax, 1680 Madison Ave, Fort Atkinson, WI (920) 563-3600
Country Inn & Suites — \$148/night + tax, 1650 Doris Drive, Fort Atkinson, WI (920) 542-1600

EVENTS

Thursday, June 22

FTA Banquet
National Council Meeting
Bonfire

Friday, June 23

Trapperman Feed
FTA Auction
Bonfire

Saturday, June 24

Trapper Hospitality Event
Bonfire

SPECIAL COURSE

**Intro to Trapping -
Trapper's Mini Course**

VENDORS

(subject to change)

FTA • Duke Traps • Peterson Furs
BTS • Dave Scifres • NTA • RBG
Saw Mill • Larry Finch • Sterling
Trap Supplies • South Dakota
Trappers Assoc • Barnes Trapping
Supply • Lone Wolf Lures • Dobbins
Lures Adirondack Dick • Trapping
Girl Inc. • Virginia Trappers
Assoc • Trapper Post • 3-Tracks
Wisconsin Trappers Assoc • Schmitt
Enterprises Inc. • Hoosier Trapper
Supply • Harris Traps • She Traps
Kansas Trapline Products • LKL
J3 Outdoors • Minnesota Trapline
Products • Dunlap Lures • East Fork
Predator • Trapper Adrian • Funke
Tennessee Trappers Assoc • F & T
Trap Supplies • Cumberland Trap
Supplies Hannibal • Mark June
Clint Locklear • Badgerland Trap
Supplies

DEMO SCHEDULE

(subject to change)

Thursday

9:00 AM Doug McKenzie - Trapping in Dixieland
10:00 AM Bob Hauser - Beaver Under Ice
11:00 AM Mike Mazur - Coons
12:00 PM Bryan Nelson - Fox
1:00 PM Cletis Richards - Coyotes
2:00 PM Mike Sells - Muskrats
3:00 PM Skye Goode - Canines & Skunks
4:00 PM Clay Creech - Otter

Friday

8:00 AM Gerald Schmitt - Mink
9:00 AM Rick Hemsath - Coons
10:00 AM Jenna Malinowski - Beaver
11:00 AM Robert Waddell - High Volume Coyotes
12:00 PM Mark Conner - Southern Beaver
1:00 PM Lesel Reuwsaat - Predators
2:00 PM Cory Van Driel - Weasels
3:00 PM Mike Wilhite - Fisher & Marten
4:00 PM Derek Search - Cable Restraints

Saturday

8:00 AM Dan Carroll - Cable Restraints
9:00 AM Nick Beader - Southern Coyotes in the
Mud

10:00 AM Beth Coonburger Hakala - Bobcat
11:00 PM Arnie Groehler - Turtles
12:00 PM Gary Jepson - Coyotes
1:00 PM John Vohman - Spring Beaver
2:00 PM Red O'Hearn - Coons
3:00 PM Ed Schneider - Coyotes

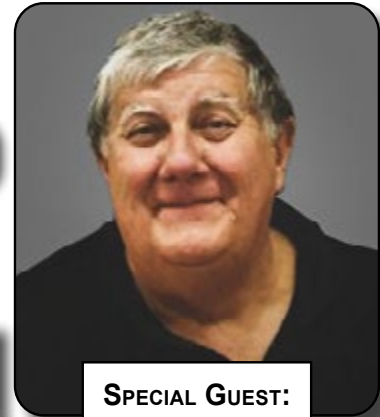
PROMOTIONAL AREA

Friday

10:00 AM ADC - Ron Peters & Chris Bezio
1:00 PM Trapping Out of State - Dale Billingsley
2:00 PM Lure Making - Gary Jepson & Jack Hill
3:00 PM Marketing Animal By-products - Robert
Waddell, Dale Billingsley & Skye Goode
TBA - Groenewold Fur & Wool Company - Market Report

Saturday

9:00 AM Clint Locklear - Trapping for Hire
10:00 AM Paul & Will Hsu - Ginseng & Roots



**SPECIAL GUEST:
Paul Dobbins**

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Julie Gabris
WTA Convention Coordinator
(920) 382-2012
convention@wistrap.org

ENJOY!

- TRAPPING DEMOS
- PREDATOR HUNTING
- SKINNING DEMOS
- **KIDS** ACTIVITIES
- OUTDOOR FLEA MARKET
- TAILGATING
- TRAP SETTING CONTEST
- TURTLE TRAPPING
- LURE MAKING SEMINARS
- ANTLER & ANIMAL
BYPRODUCT MARKETING
- BUCKSKINNERS
- REENACTORS

**PLENTY OF
TAILGATING SPACES
AVAILABLE!!**

Keep up to date at <https://furtakersofamerica.com/rendezvous.html> for additional information and the latest updates.

Q & A

Continued from page 32

with the single-door multi-catch systems instead of the dual-door systems, but your experience may differ. On both styles, we wrap the last half in duct tape to provide protection and collect odors (i.e., hair, urine, feces, scent glands, etc.). We may have to rewrap the tape two, three, or more times per year based on the number of calls we perform.

We like a medium-sized cage trap measuring 7 x 7 x 24 inches made with 16-gauge 1 x 1-inch wire with gravity doors for skunks and opossums. We do have to modify the traps by installing 1/2-inch wire on the bottom and aluminum covers on the top. This setup allows us to protect the ground from digging skunks, provide shelter from the elements, and calm the animal while providing good airflow. It is common to show up and have the skunk curled up, sleeping in the trap. To date, we've never had a skunk spray in, but if it should happen, our technicians have decent protection with the covers. If you don't want to take the time to modify the trap bottom, look for one made out of 1 x 1/2-inch 14 or 16-gauge wire.

When dealing with raccoons on the ground or groundhogs, we prefer to use large 12 x 12 x 30-inch 14-gauge 1 x 1 wire cage traps with gravity doors. Based on the site location, we may install 1/2-inch wire on the bottom and sides or install an aluminum tray or cover. The wire and side covers prevent the animals from reaching through and grabbing items or digging up lawns. The tray is used inside buildings to control urine or feces issues. Note that when making a tray for a 1 x 1 wire trap, either cover the trap sides with wire or ensure the tray material goes all the way to the top. Otherwise, a

raccoon can cut their paws on the edge as they reach out.

For raccoons on roofs, our go-to cage trap is a 16-gauge 1 x 1/2-inch wire 11 x 12 x 30-inch cage trap with a spring-loaded door. This trap allows us to install it in any direction and ensure that the door will close tightly. The tight wire mesh also prevents raccoons from reaching through the trap removing bait, damaging siding, or gripping wires. For extra protection, you can install it over a piece of plywood to protect the singles, but we've never had an issue. Be careful when purchasing this style of cage trap, as some professional models only have the 1 x 1/2-inch wire at the back of the trap. Although they work in the same manner, the 1 x 1-inch wire allows animals to reach outside the cage trap, so additional protection will have to be installed on the roof or trap to prevent damage.

A handy trap to have on the truck for groundhogs, skunks, and raccoons is a Comstock double-door trap. We prefer the 24 or 30-inch models as they can be used on the ground or roof while still providing space for the trapped animal. When using the trap on the ground, choose locations where the animal needs to walk through the trap to enter or exit. These areas include pinch points from one yard to another, areas directly in front of den holes, or travel pathways from under a porch to the yard. Baiting the double-door traps is unnecessary as they function like body gripping traps without killing the animal.

When setting on a roof, place the trap in front of the opening the animal uses while blocking off all other access. This forces the animal to enter and exit through the trap. At times, placing the trap on its side or upside down may be necessary to position it correctly. If putting it upside down, consider

covering the door wires with cardboard or some other material to prevent the animal from hesitating due to feeling the wire under its feet. Also, the animal's weight on the door may cause it to fire before the animal is inside the trap. When that happens, repositioning the trap will be required.

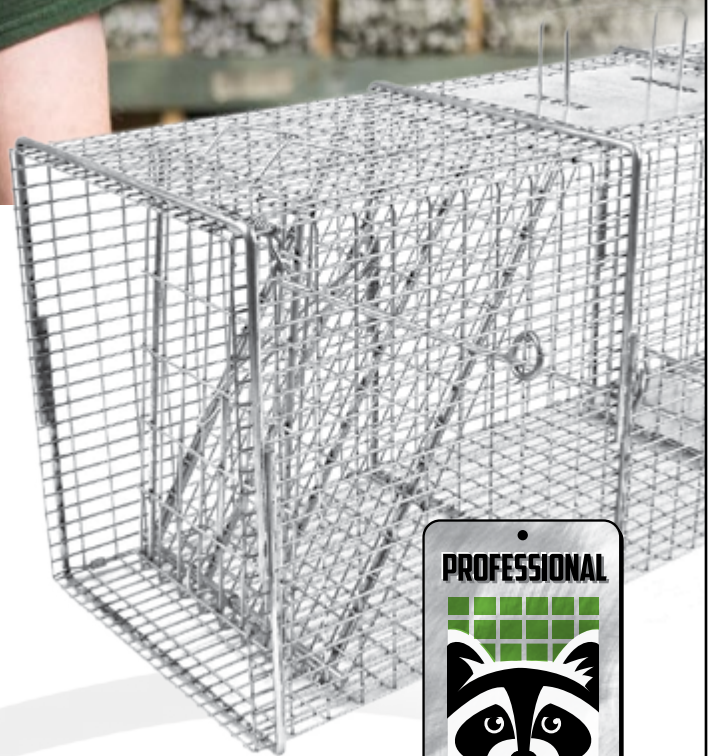
For beaver removal, it's hard to surpass the Comstock Beaver Trap. While several other beaver traps are on the market, the Comstock is the safest to use and has good versatility. It can be set for either live or lethal capture, strictly by controlling how much water covers the trap. Food lure or castor mounds can be used on the bank with the trap positioned in the travel pathway or submerged directly in the beaver run. We prefer to have the trap upside down, so the doors are on the bottom regardless of how we set it. This prevents a beaver swimming on top of the water from bumping into the door and potentially becoming shy of the trap location.

In terms of the number of traps, start small and build up. A good starting point is four solid small rodent traps, six single-catch tree squirrel traps, four multi-catch traps with two nose cones, six medium cage traps, eight large cage gravity door traps, four large spring door traps, two Comstock double-door traps, and one Comstock Beaver trap. This will allow for a minimum of two small rodent jobs, four squirrel jobs, three skunk jobs, four raccoon ground jobs, two raccoon roof jobs simultaneously, and three specialty traps. When buying traps, purchase the best that you can afford. Comstock traps have seriously increased in price but will be paid for by the first job or two they are used for. ■



Tomahawk Professional Series Traps

- Made from high tensile, heavy gauge galvanized wire mesh for superior strength and higher corrosion resistance.
- Trap frame and doors contain 25% more reinforcing rods.
- Trap frame consists entirely of ½" x 1" mesh which adds strength, protects bait area, and prevents animal damage to surrounding area.
- Spring loaded doors with super strong "fast action" springs to insure instant door closure which prevents animals from backing out.
- Optional reinforced rear release door with secure locking device. Allows for safe releases and easy baiting, yet strong and escape proof.
- "Sure-Fire" trip mechanism with brass roller system assures nearly 100% capture rate.
- Powder Coating available on all Tomahawk Professional Series traps.



One Year
FACTORY WARRANTY



Call: 800-272-8727 • Online: www.livetraps.com



Tomahawk llc.
LIVE • TRAP

Dependable. Tough. **Tomahawk.**

STATE ASSOCIATION PARTNERS



**Indiana
Nuisance
Wildlife
Control
Association**



**Association of
Oklahoma
Wildlife
Control
Operators**



**SERVING THE
NUISANCE WILDLIFE
CONTROL INDUSTRY**

RETURN FORM TO:
WCT
PO Box 357,
Sharon Center, OH 44274

WILDLIFE CONTROL TECHNOLOGY MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTION / RENEWAL FORM

_____ US ONE (1) YEAR PRINTED SUBSCRIPTION FOR \$40.00 US FUNDS

_____ CANADA ONE (1) YEAR PRINTED SUBSCRIPTION FOR \$70.00 US FUNDS

_____ ONE (1) YEAR DIGITAL PDF SUBSCRIPTION FOR \$30.00 US FUNDS

Customer Number: _____ Email: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Major Credit Cards Accepted



Subscribe online at
www.wctmagazine.com

Wildlife Control Supplies

► Experience ► Knowledge ► Products for Professionals ► "One-Stop" Shopping

Make the right call

Go to ShopWCS.com for all
your SKUNK needs!



Premier Supplier to
Wildlife Control Professionals

www.ShopWCS.com



Call toll-free 877-684-7262



WILDLIFE CONTROL TECHNOLOGY
WCT GROUP, INC.
P.O. Box 357 ■ SHARON CENTER, OH 44274

THE CHOICE OF WILDLIFE CONTROL PROFESSIONALS SINCE 1994

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

PLEASE RUSH
 DATED MATERIAL

LOOKING FOR WILDLIFE CONTROL TRAINING? WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED!



\$89.00

Dealing With Woodpeckers

In this course we will cover - identification of the most common problem woodpeckers and their damage, Federal/State status and permits, building repairs, D.I.Y./commercial harassment equipment, repellents and capture options.

13
 Lessons

WCT ONLINE TRAINING CENTER

Go to:

<https://wildlifetraining.thinkific.com/>
 and join today!

- Free and paid training courses on a variety of subjects are available.
- Access videos and courses 24/7/365 from any Internet enabled device.
- Learn at your own pace based on your availability.
- Pause and restart right where you left off at a later time.
- No need to travel or shut down to attend training classes.
- Printable Certificates of Completion available on most paid courses.
- New courses are being developed and added.