

Traps are made from PVC pipe and have a handle on top for easy transport.

PVC Traps Allow Live Trapping, Relocating Of Pest Animals

You can catch skunks alive without getting sprayed with new lightweight Tuff Traps from The Snare Shop, Carroll, Iowa. Owners Neil and Rhonda Bock developed and sell two sizes of PVC traps, both of which allow live trapping or relocation of pest animals.

The patented traps are made of 4 or 6 in. PVC pipe. The 6-in. trap is 24 in. long, and the 4-in. trap is 20 in. long. Both have a bait area and pan in the back of the pipe that, when disturbed, triggers a steel door that snaps straight down behind the animal and locks firmly shut. "All parts, except the PVC pipe - are steel, so there's no way the animal is going to chew its way out of the trap," he adds.

"When people have a problem with skunks around the farm or home, it's almost impossible to remove them without them spraying," Neil says. "Our larger trap is just the right size for a skunk to get into. Once the skunk is inside, it's trapped in the dark, so it doesn't get upset as easily. But more importantly, it can't get its tail up to spray," Neil points out.

While the trap is weatherproof, "so rain or snow won't ruin the bait," Bock says, there are air holes that allow the trapped animal to

breathe - in case what you've trapped is not a skunk or squirrel but the neighbor's cat. Even though the traps are made of pipe, they're designed to sit square. The smaller trap, Bock says, will "fit right into an eave trough."

The 6-in. trap has a handy handle on top, so you can just pick the trap up and transport it.

"The doors on both traps are removable. To release the trapped animal, you just open the door. They eventually will back out. Even if you're still in the area when a skunk is released, they're not likely to spray unless they're feeling threatened."

Bock says he makes the traps on his farm as he has time. "We've sold a lot to people who do animal rescue or animal control work," he says.

The 6-in. trap sells for \$19.95, while the 4-in. size is \$16.95. Shipping runs \$4.90 for either.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, The Snare Shop, Neil or Rhonda Bock, 13191 Phoenix Avenue, Carroll, Iowa 51401 E-mail: sshop@netins.net; Website: www.snareshop.com (ph 712 822-5318; fax: 712-822-5319.)

Lawn Mower, Furnace Fan Used To Build Low-Cost Snowblower

Using a push-type lawn mower and an old house furnace fan, Robert Sexton of Millville, Minn., built a low-cost snowblower.

He removed the original engine from the mower deck and bolted the fan on in its place. Then he bolted a 7 hp Honda gas engine on top of the fan. The rope-start engine belt-drives the fan. He moved the front lawn mower wheels forward so that they're directly across from each other which keeps the rig more stable. He also mounted a fiberglass shield on front of the fan as well as wooden sideboards to direct air flow downward.

"It really works good and saves a lot of shoveling," says Sexton. "I use it to blow snow off my driveway and my porch. It'll blow my 20-ft. long porch clean in just a few seconds. I walk forward and pull it along. The fan blows hard - I'd estimate its wind speed is about 80 mph. It has a lot of power. In fact, when I start the engine I have to put

my foot against one of the wheels in order to keep the machine from coming back toward me.

"It can go right through 3-ft. high snow drifts and will blow snow that's on the ground 20 ft. away. In fact, if I lived in town I don't think I'd even have to take the snowblower out of the garage in order to clear the driveway. However, it doesn't throw rocks in the air but just rolls them along on the ground, so it isn't dangerous to use.

"The 7 hp engine came off my brother's straw chopper. I used a big engine because it has to start under load and there's no clutch. To mount the engine I used the same mounting bracket that originally supported the fan's electric motor. I made an angle iron frame and used it to bolt the fan to the mower frame."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Robert Sexton, Rt. 1, Box 2A, Millville, Minn. 55957 (ph 507 798-2492).

Clean-Smelling Idea For Chasing Off Deer

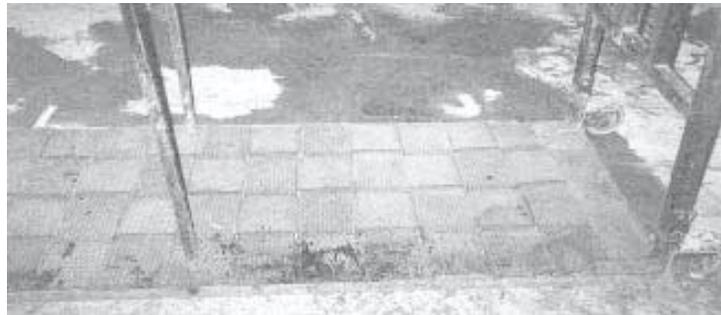
"I read with interest the stories in your last issue about ways to keep deer out of crops. I've got my own method that works great," says Mat Trierweiler, Pwamo, Mich.

Trierweiler simply hangs bars of Irish Spring soap around the perimeter of areas he wants to protect. The strong-scented soap apparently makes deer think people are around. The scent from a few bars is strong

enough to protect acres of crops.

He cuts each soap bar in half and hangs them about 200 ft. apart from trees or posts. He says the half bars of soap will last a whole season. "This soap is 100 percent effective against deer and also seems to work on many other small animals like raccoons," he says.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Mat Trierweiler, Pwamo, Mich.



Mat was made from used 8-in. wide belts off a Deere round baler. "It keeps my show steers from slipping on a wet floor," says inventor Justin Reiter.

Mats Made From Baler Belts Improve Footing

While touring a feedlot in Nebraska in the summer of 1999, Justin Reiter noticed they were using rubber mats around the chute where they worked cattle. He says the mats were made from tire treads that were cut into long strips and then woven together. They also provided better footing for both workers and cattle.

"I decided I'd try to make some mats myself but getting the tread off the tires was difficult," he says.

Then Reiter, a Cascade, Iowa, high school senior and the son of Jacob and Beverly Reiter, found some used belts from a Deere 566 round baler in their machine shed. "These belts are 8 in. wide and more than 40 ft. long," he says. "I figured we could make mats out of those."

With help from his brother, Stan, Justin cut the old belts into shorter strips measuring 8 ft. and 3 ft. and wove these together into an 8-ft. by 3-ft. mat. They punched holes in the ends of the belts with a 1/4-in. drill bit and

fastened them together with zip-tightening cable ties.

The two boys worked only about an hour to make their first mat. The cable ties, which cost about \$5, were the only out-of-pocket expense.

"I used the mat in the blocking chute for my show steers," he says. "When you wash them, everything around gets wet. The mat keeps the animals from slipping on the wet floor."

Reiter is making another mat that will be 12 ft. square to go in front of the chute used to treat feeder cattle for his family's feedlot. He thinks there might be a market for the baler belt mats, although he's not sure how much they might be worth. "I'm looking for more used baler belts so I can make more mats," he says.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Justin Reiter, 23347 Bowens Prairie Road, Monticello, Iowa 52310 (ph 319 465-4149).



Sexton mounted an old house furnace fan on top of a push-type lawn mower deck, then bolted a gas engine on top of fan.



Engine belt-drives the fan. Wood sideboards direct air flow downward.

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