



Jack Michael says his modified dog kennel keeps guinea hens from leaving the nest and also protects the chicks from predators.

Dog Kennel “Guinea Hen Pen”

“I was having trouble with my guinea hens abandoning or even killing their own chicks. So I bought a cheap dog kennel and made a guinea hen pen out of it,” says Jack Michael, Ohlman, Ill.

He covered the 8 by 12-ft. kennel with chicken wire and also rigged it all the way around with electric fence to keep raccoons out.

Michael likes guinea hens for the insects they eat, and because they serve as “watchdogs” on his farm, raising a clatter whenever strangers arrive. But raising guineas was a problem because the hens are so irresponsible.

“I’ve learned over the years that if you can keep the chicks with their mother for a while, they’ll learn from their mother and are far more likely to survive. The problem is that if guinea hens are outdoors, at night the mother will often fly off to roost, leaving the chicks unprotected on the ground where they can die of exposure or raccoons can raid the nest. Also, guinea roosters will sometimes kill the chicks.

“My modified dog kennel keeps the guinea hen from leaving the nest and also protects the chicks from predators. I bring the mother and chicks into the kennel as soon as they hatch out so other guineas, and predators can’t find them. Confined in this way, the

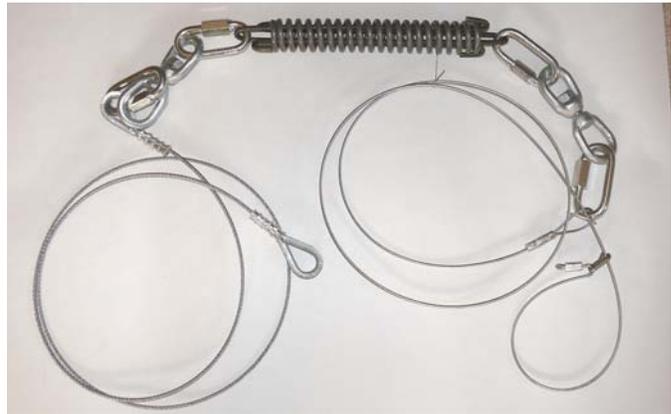
chicks get a chance to eat and keep warm.”

Michael bought a slightly damaged dog kennel at a store for \$130 and covered it with 1-in. chicken wire. To give the chicks protection from the weather, he used a 55-gal. plastic barrel to make a hover. He cut the barrel in half lengthwise and cut a small opening in one end, then set it on a wooden pallet inside the kennel. A 25-watt light bulb with a reflector provides heat. A metal feeder and water pan are located just outside the hover.

“The pallet gets the chicks up off the ground and keeps everything clean because manure can fall through between the slats,” says Michael. “The chicken wire mesh keeps the chicks from crawling through the kennel. Sometimes I’ll put a canvas on top of the kennel to provide shade. I use tires to keep the canvas from blowing away.”

Michael says guinea hens are particularly adept at eating Japanese beetles from garden plants, such as strawberries. They eat only the bugs and don’t damage the crop. And they’ll eat just about any insect that moves, including grasshoppers and crickets. They’re great for eating ticks, too,” he notes.

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Wild hog snares are a low cost, effective way to catch wild boars, says Newt Sterling.

He Catches Wild Hogs With Neck Snares

If you have wild hog problems, check out Newt Sterling and his wild hog snares. They are Texas wild boar tough and Texas wild boar tested. Sterling is convinced snares are a low cost, effective way to catch wild boar.

They are so effective that he warns prospective users of the danger they pose. “Study your trail, and know what animals are likely to come down it,” says Sterling. “If you set one of my snares the right way, you will catch the first animal down the trail, and you will probably kill it.”

Sterling offers a video called “Master Wild Hog Snaring”. It isn’t a fancy production piece, and at 2 hrs., 49 min., the three DVD set likely has more information than most beginners need. However, it’s well labeled and easy to jump to sections of interest, such as bait stations or a particular type of snare. It’s filled with bits of knowledge Sterling has gathered in a lifetime on the trampoline.

“I’ve used a neck snare to catch everything from lynx to bear,” he says. “You need to practice little things like stepping over the snare and continuing on down the trail a ways and then coming back and stepping over it again. If an animal is following your scent, and you step around the snare, it will too.”

What really sets his video apart from other how-to videos is the repetition of specific steps carried out in the field. When conditions aren’t perfect, he shows how to adapt.

“A cable snare by itself will do a good job, but a big pig can break it,” he says.



Some of his snares come with shock springs, swivels and other devices.

Given the size and attitude a wild pig can reach, Sterling takes his snares to stronger and more durable levels. He begins to incorporate shock springs, swivels and other devices, reviewing different weight ratings.

In addition to neck snares, he covers a wide variety of foot traps and foot snares he has adapted for wild boar.

The video is priced at \$39.95. His snares vary depending on components and relative sizes. However at \$15, the Ultimate Wild Hog Snare with its 500-lb. shock spring, swivels, quick links and 3/32-in. steel cables would appear to be a very good deal.

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Irrigation “Pipe Hauler”

“Our new irrigation pipe trailer is built strong and equipped with features that make it easy to use,” says Nathan Strubhar, Western Innovation Technological Solutions, Perkins, Okla.

The trailer rides on high quality, all terrain tires and is available in almost any color or length and with various hitch options. The model shown in the photo is designed to hold 40-ft. lengths of pipe. The trailer is built with a double tube frame, with a sq. tubing “skid tube” at the bottom in case the trailer bottoms out in rough terrain. Rubber mats on all contact surfaces protect the pipe from denting in rough terrain.

“It’s a clean, neat trailer with an

aerodynamic design,” says Strubhar. “It has a polyurethane paint job with epoxy primer, which is as hard as powder coating and results in a long lasting shine. The model shown in the photo has a ball hitch, with an adjuster to accommodate various heights of vehicles and tractors. The jack mounts on top of the tongue to keep it from being damaged by a tractor tire when making tight turns. The tire will just rub against the tongue without banging into the jack.”

The trailer is fitted with adjustable height stake pockets. “The stakes can be set at 3 different levels of height, depending on how much pipe you’re hauling. The stakes can also be pulled all the way out, allowing you



Irrigation pipe trailer rides on high-quality, all terrain tires. Model shown is designed to hold 40-ft. lengths of pipe.

to load and unload pipe without having to do a lot of lifting,” says Strubhar.

The model shown has a solid tube axle with stabilizer bars; a torsion axle is also available.

Price varies from \$5,000 to \$7,000 depending on options ordered.

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Wheels Added To Grader Blade

Frank Miller added a pair of caster wheels to the back of his 7-ft. Deere grader blade to keep the blade from digging into the ground at either end. He welded a metal bracket onto the blade and welded another bracket onto the caster wheels. The blade’s height can be adjusted 2 in. up or down by changing the position of a pin.

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Add-on caster wheels keep blade from digging into ground.

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