

TRAPPING WILDLIFE – IS IT THE SOLUTION?

Many people believe that if they have a nuisance animal that they are being humane by just trapping it and releasing it elsewhere. This is not a good solution for many reasons. Firstly, it is illegal to trap wildlife in California because it does not resolve the problem and just creates new ones. Removing one nuisance animal just creates an opening for another to move into the same trouble situation, so the proper response is to remove the temptation for trouble by using proven exclusion methods.



What is exclusion? **Exclusion is exactly what it sounds like: Keeping the problem animal out**, and it works! This can be done by blocking entrances and openings with the use of wire mesh, grates, boards, and other materials. Sonoma County Wildlife Rescue offers an exclusion service to assist people in their quest to keep the wild critters out. We in the Mendocino Wildlife Association will be happy to help as well, so **please call us on our hotline at (707)984-6363.**

Why is it illegal to trap and relocate animals?

Studies have shown that **75% of relocated animals do not survive** due to conflict with other animals who already have established territories or lack of food and water. Just like moving a human out of it's home, there are consequences which could result in suffering and even a cruel death. Further, relocating a mother can create orphaned babies which will die if the mother cannot care for them.

Many times the animal that gets trapped is not the culprit. As well, domestic animals are often caught in the trap instead.

California law requires a license and permit to trap any animal. The animal must either be killed or released in the exact spot it was trapped. So, what have you accomplished by trapping?



The most outstanding reason that trapping does not solve the problem is that another animal will just take the culprit's place. If you do not solve the reason the first animal is becoming a pest, you will eventually have to deal with more. The proper response is to remove the temptation and their ability to be a pest by resolving the conflict with exclusion.



Many livestock owners want to allow their animals to "free range" and do not like to keep their animals in enclosures, but remember that domesticated animals do not have the means to defend themselves like their wild counterparts. It is your responsibility to defend them, or you must accept that some of them will be preyed upon. Either way, blaming a wild animal for being wild is not a good solution. The responsible solution is to remove the temptation by keeping your livestock out of harms way by using exclusion techniques to keep wild predators out.