

Longworth Mammal Trap Instructions for Use



The Longworth trap is designed to trap small mammals with the minimum discomfort to the trapped animal. The trap consists of two parts: a tunnel which contains the door tripping mechanism and a nest box, which is attached to the back of the tunnel. The nest box provides a large space for food and bedding material. When in use it is positioned at an upward angle to the trap tunnel to prevent rain entering the nest box and to provide drainage of urine or condensation. When the trap is not in use the tunnel can be conveniently placed inside the nest box for easy carriage or storage.

- Made of aluminium to keep the trap lightweight for field use
- Designed to allow easy access to all parts for cleaning
- Choice of stops provide variation of the angle of the nest box to the tunnel
- The nest box is available with or without a shrew hole to allow shrews to escape

Trap Assembly

Hold the nest box in the right hand with its open end pointing left. Hold the trap tunnel in the left hand with the flanged end towards the nest box.

With the right forefinger raise the strut (the long narrow flap suspended from the top of the nest box) until it is well out of the way, push the small wire lever (which protrudes from the top at the side of the nest box) backwards with the right thumb so that the larger flap, below the strut, is pushed back into the nest box.

Now, with the left hand, insert the flanged end of the tunnel trap into the nest box, Release the lever held by the right thumb to allow the large flap to fall down and rest in front of the flange positioned on top of the tunnel.

Lift the front end of the tunnel and adjust it to the required angle to the nest box by positioning the bottom rear end of the trap tunnel in front of either the first or the second pair of stops on the floor of the nest box. The trap and nest box should now be securely joined with the nest box sloping up at the back. Lower the strut and, using a little downward pressure with the right forefinger, lock it into one of the grooves on top of the tunnel.

Prebait Catch

The catch consists of a wire which runs along the top of the tunnel on the left side of the trap door, projecting into the tunnel to hold the door to the roof.

To operate the trap, ease the wire end - nearest the door – outwards; this frees the trap door. Pressure put on the treadle wire, stretching across the inside of the tunnel at the back, will cause the trap door to drop. Reset the door in the 'prebait' position by easing the wire locking lever outwards. Push the trap door inwards and up, and release the wire locking lever.

The prebait catch facility allows the trap door to remain in the open or 'prebait' position, even if an animal goes inside. The door will not close. This enables prebaiting to take place (this is where the trap is positioned in the field with bait in and outside the trap entrance and the door held in the 'prebait' position for one to several days). When a colony, which is subject of a study, has become familiar with the trap it can be set to catch animals by releasing the prebait catch.

Adjustment of trip tension

The pressure required on the treadle wire to actuate the trap mechanism may be adjusted in the following manner:

Turn the trap so that the flanges are to the operator's left. Holding the trap by its upper surface, open the bottom, which is hinged at the end opposite the flanges. This exposes the trip mechanism whose tension is regulated by a spring attached to a movable piece lying on the extreme right. Clockwise rotation of this movable piece will increase the pressure required to actuate the trap door mechanism. N.B, Extreme anti-clockwise rotation will cause the treadle to be permanently depressed and prevent the trap being set.