

Table 1.: Animals caught in the United States and in Canada.

Year: Animals:	U.S.A. 1984	Canada 1984
Arc ic fox	720	22,707
Badger	19,726	3,723
Bassarisk		48,840
Bear(br/bl)		2,411
Beaver	198,315	371,685
Bobca		69,776
Canadian mar en	3,499	14,483
Coyo e	333,989	82,258
Ermine	8,032	72,849
Grey fox	246,991	
Grizzly bear		8
Ki fox	5,182	
Lynx	3,202	8,625
Mar en	33,923	161,160
Mink	315,094	69,167
Musk-ra	5,482,147	1,444,787
Nu ria	917,915	
Opossum	520,379	
O er	17,536	19,111
Polar bear		296
Puma		15
Raccoon	3,129,893	116,929
Red fox	357,367	65,877
Skunk	203,893	487
Squirrel		264,293
Wildca		2,128
Wolf		3,666
Wolverene	601	831
Fur her		1,238
Sum o al	11,951,470	2,728,742

(Source: LYNX)

not killed immediately, it will die a slow death by drowning.

THE SNARE

The snare is a nylon or metal loop with a running knot, tightening as the rope or wire is pulled when the animal has got its head into it, after which it dies a slow death by strangulation. However, if the loop gets round the body further down, the death agony may last even longer. Serious pain and injuries are also inflicted by a loop round a leg. Snares are among others used for felines such as lynxes and bobcats, but foxes and coyotes are also caught in this way.

ANIMALS AS JUNK

Millions of animals are "by accident" caught, killed or badly wounded each year. Dogs, cats, sheep and birds(-of-prey) indiscriminately stray into the traps and snares set to catch furred animals. The injury to birds is mostly so serious that their chance of survival is very slight indeed. The unwanted specimens are mostly thrown away as "trash". Because of its indiscriminate nature (whatever gets into a trap is caught) these catching-methods are also a danger to those animals which are threatened with extinction. The number of "undesired catches" is extremely high. For each wanted animal from one up to four "waste" ones are estimated to be caught. Just imagine a furrier, who needs 40 raccoons in order to make a fur coat. Besides these 40 raccoons 40 to 160 other animals will also

have been killed in order to get this one coat accomplished. Hunting for fur, in short, means a waste of animal lives.

THE KILLING

When an animal does not immediately die and cannot get rid of its trap or snare, it just has to wait for its executioner.

A trap-setting course in New Jersey recommends the following methods to kill trapped animals:

a) Break the neck of the animal by putting a stick over it, stand on it and then heave the body high up.

b) Stun it or choke it. Beat it on the head with a shovel right where the head meets the neck. After this stand on the neck, while resting your weight in the place where the heart is: this especially works well with foxes.

c) Clubbing it. This is the commonest killing-method. The animal gets several blows on nose and head with a hammer, shovel or any convenient tool.

For skunks the state of New Jersey recommends cudgelling and breaking the back first before tackling the head, because this will prevent the terrified animal from squirting one with the fluid of its scent-gland.

d) Drowning is recommended for musk-rat, beaver, raccoon and also for skunks.

e) A .22 rifle can be used for most animals, except for the musk-rat(..). Many trap-setters, however, are teenagers, whereas a licence for a firearm is only available for people of 18 and over, after passing a "safe hunting" exam.

FUR TRADERS DEFEND THEMSELVES

Furriers are more and more criticized for the manner in which they deal with animal lives. Dealers and trappers have to invent new arguments all the time in order to defend their actions. They claim, for instance, that all the animals they catch are pests, that the balance of nature is preserved best by hunting them, while they deny that any animal suffering could be caused in this manner.

The Canadian government adds yet another argument in order to protect the large tax yields from fur by maintaining that hunting wild animals with traps has always figured largely in the way of life of the Canadian aboriginals, the Red Indians and the Eskimoes. Their