

Description of Panel Trap: An Effective Device for the Control of Wild Boar and Porcupine



Rashid A. Khan and Fahad Rasheed

Department of Forestry and Range Management,
University of Agriculture, Faisalabad



Panel trap is made up of four steel panels (5x5 feet) tied up together to make a square shape enclosure. Out of these four constituent panels, one is provided with a shutter gate. The door of this gate opens upward and closes downward with in the cage enclosure. While closed, it properly fits in the door frame built little towards inside of the trap. During trapping operation, this trap door rests on a wooden bar attached to food pouch by a string. On entering the panel trap enclosure, the wild animals try to grab the food pouch, which ultimately pulls the wooden bar and shuts down the entry gate. The entrapped wild boars and other animals could be killed and disposed off later. This trap was effectively used during wild boar control project in the area of Islamabad. Panel trap is the most effective device for trapping the wild boars if properly installed on animal trails (See figs. 1,2).

During study, some animals were observed to jump out of the trap to escape. Thus as remedial measure the panel trap was modified and series of curved steel bars were welded (pointing towards inside) on upper margins of all four constituent panels of the trap.

Efficacy of this trap mainly depends upon the selection of trapping site, use of attractants and proper erection of trap. Wild animals normally use specific routes called trails to reach the feeding areas. These trails are the best sites to be selected for the installation of traps. Accordingly, food items already available in the fields could not be used as attractants. For example if standing wheat crop is available in the fields then wheat grains can't be used as attractants. For installation,

the trap should be placed at properly leveled soil and all trap panels be tightly screwed. Any negligence in this connection can negatively affect the trapping exercises.

Porcupines are difficult to entrap as the animal dig below walls of the trap to escape. Panel trap can be effectively used against porcupine by placing an iron plate on floor of the trap during field use (Fig. 3). This trap has been proved to be the best wild animal trapping device in a HEC funded wild boar control project. Salient trapping results of the panel trap are given below in Table 1:



Fig. 1. Panel trap in erected position



Fig. 2. Wild boars entrapped in panel trap.

Location	Wild boar	Porcupine	Total No .of animal traps
F-9	48	9	57
Muree Road	24	7	31
Around Quaid-e-Azam University	23	4	27
Back of Sports Complex	17	3	20
Back of Mar gala Hotel	15	4	19
Golf Club	22	6	28
Near Heliport	26	5	31
F-7	18	2	20
F-8	26	6	32
Near Faisal Mosque	37	9	46
Near the Zoo	31	5	36
Apposite Diplomatic Enclaves	45	3	48
Near the Punjab House	19	3	22
Near the Prime Minister	26	4	30
Near the Barrilmam	13	NIL	13
Vicinity of Shaker Perian	29	15	44
Grand Total	419	85	504

Selection of attractant materials (base materials and additives) used during trapping exercises are highly important for successful results. During the execution of HEC funded research project in the area of Islamabad, boiled maize, boiled wheat, boiled gram, potato, sweet potato, rotten guava, ber, mango, apple, banana fruits were used as base materials with best results. Powdered of della grass roots powder, mango stones powder, dry milk, brown sugar, molasses, vinegar etc. were used as additives to enhance attractiveness of the base materials. Both the materials (base materials and additives) are mixed and put in the pouch attached with string connected to wooden bar on which the shutter door of the trap



Fig.3:Porcupine entrapped in P.Trap. Table 1: Wild boars trapped during HEC project.

rests. In order to enhance efficacy of the panel trap, some amount of the attractive material is spread a line from the trap to both sides which helps in guiding the animals towards the panel trap.