

## Longworth Humane Mammal Trap



The Longworth trap is designed to trap small mammals with the minimum of discomfort to the trapped animal. The trap consists of two parts - a tunnel, which houses the door tripping mechanism - and a nest box, which attaches to the end of the tunnel. The nest box provides a large space for food and bedding material.

When in use it is angled upwards to prevent rain entering the nest box, and to provide drainage of urine and condensation. When the trap is not in use the tunnel can be stored inside the nest box.

### 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 of 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 into the nest box. Release the lever held by the right thumb to allow the 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 tunnel in front of either the first or second pair of stops on the floor of the nest box.

The tunnel 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 the top of the tunnel.

## PREBAIT CATCH

The catch consists of a wire which runs along the top of the tunnel on the left hand side of the trap door, projecting into the tunnel to hold the door to the roof. It 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 when the trap is positioned in the field. Bait is placed in, and outside the trap entrance with the door held in the "prebait" position for one or more 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.

To operate the trap normally, simply 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.

## ADJUSTMENT OF TRIP TENSION

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

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Above: Once it's in position, cover your trap with vegetation to insulate the nest chamber



Above: When you see the trap door closed it's time to check what's inside



Above: To prevent your catch escaping open the trap inside a large plastic bag



Above: Wood mouse