

Groundhogs and Gophers



Those who capture animals accept the responsibility of ensuring that the animals survive and that stress and trauma are kept to a minimum. In any procedure, always take into account the safety and welfare of the animal.

HUMANE HINTS: In some cases you can resolve a groundhog/gopher problem without trapping the animal - for example, you can install fencing around a garden you don't want eaten. If you use a cage trap, be sure to set it in the shade and relocate the groundhog/gopher as soon as possible. NEVER attempt to poison groundhogs/gophers. Unfortunately, there are no registered groundhog/gopher repellents but predator urine has shown success.

Summary of Step-By-Step Instructions:

- 1) Purchase large cage traps - rated raccoon size. Gophers generally will not enter traps and deterrents will work best.
- 2) Set traps with fresh vegetables in areas of groundhog activity. Place a small dish of freshwater in the trap. Make sure traps are scent-free and flush to the ground, and set in the shade.
- 3) Check the trap frequently! Do not set traps if there is inclement weather or in severe temperatures
- 4) Relocate any trapped groundhog at least 15 kilometers from capture site.
- 5) If you have groundhog living under a deck, shed, or other structure, install an exclusion barrier - steel mesh around the perimeter, and down at least 12 into the ground, with bottom of mesh sloping outward.

Things to consider when relocating a wild animal:

- Trapping can create orphaned babies that are left behind.
- Baiting traps will attract more animals.
- Traps don't discriminate what species they capture.
- It causes high levels of stress for the trapped animal.
- Relocating may cause territorial disputes, difficulty locating food, water and shelter, and increase the spread of disease.
- Removing an animal without eliminating what is attracting the animal will open up space for a new inhabitant.

IF YOU HAVE FOUND INJURED, ORPHANED, OR CONTAMINATED WILDLIFE PLEASE CALL WILDNORTH AT 780-914-4118

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