

# Dog aware fact



## The Collarum™ neck restraint

The Collarum™ neck restraint is a relatively new device that is proving popular with many local governments for trapping wild dogs and foxes. The device is essentially a cable loop, which is thrown over the head and around the neck of the canine by a spring when set off by a trigger. The end of the loop, which is anchored to the ground when the trap is set, enables the canine to be held as if on a leash.

The device is target specific, in that the trigger (coated with an attractant) requires a pulling action rather than a weight-bearing one, as is the case with foot-hold traps.

### Advantages

The Collarum™ is much safer than traditional traps for capturing target animals in areas where people, pets and other domestic animals may come in contact with it. Animals other than canines are very unlikely to be caught even if they spring the device, and captured domestic dogs can be very easily released with no harm done. A person inadvertently springing the trap is also at little risk. Local government officers using this device have captured wild dogs in urban backyards and gardens.

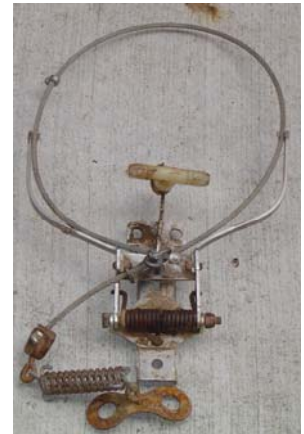
Other advantages of the device are that:

- it is safe to operate
- it is highly effective when used correctly
- there is increased public acceptance
- the cables are easily replaceable
- it may be used effectively for capturing straying domestic dogs.

### Disadvantages

Disadvantages of the device include:

- the possibility that the public may not distinguish between it and snares
- the perception that the device may be causing stress and injury to animals
- the use is labour intensive
- a high level of training is required
- if the trap is set the same way or in the same place each time, target animals may become trap averse or shy
- it can sometimes be difficult to get canines to pull the trigger device
- in some areas birds may be a problem in setting off the device
- the device can be more difficult to set than foothold traps
- canines must be forced to enter the trap from the front, as entering from the side or back may cause a miss, which could result in trap shyness
- traps can only be set in areas where there is sufficient space to ensure that the cable won't become entangled in the bush or around other obstacles.



**The Collarum™**  
(Photo courtesy of Ed Carroll)

## Best method of use

To be most effective, the device should:

- not be anchored with any type of drag—it should be set with swivels, shock springs and double staked into the earth
- not be set where entanglement can occur within the radius of the cable
- not be set on a severe slope that animals could race down to at speed—the trap is more effective if set on a slight slope
- not be used with extension cables or wire to attach it to trees or fence-posts
- be used only with factory-manufactured cables, which should be checked and maintained to ensure there is no sharp fraying.



Dogs caught by the Collarum™ (Photo courtesy of Pine Rivers Shire Council)

### If you are dog aware:

You know that using the Collarum™ is an effective way of controlling wild dogs in populated areas.