Legal Trap Types in North Carolina

The following traps can be used in North Carolina with restrictions:

- Conibear™-type traps, also known as body-gripping traps
- Foothold traps, also known as leg-hold traps
- Box/cage traps and colony traps
- Snares (beaver only)
- Collarum™-type traps (coyote only and only under a depredation permit)

**Before trapping, please check the local laws in your county for additional restrictions that may exist for certain trap types.**

You can find local laws in the NCWRC Regulations Digest or by going to: http://www.ncwildlife.org/Trapping/LawsSafety.aspx and clicking “Local Laws”

Scroll down for restrictions on each legal trap type.

**Conibear™-type Traps:**

- Must be smooth-edged and without teeth or spikes.
- Must have a weather-resistant permanent tag attached legibly with the trapper’s name and address.
- Jaw Spread:
  - To measure the width and height of a Conibear™-type trap, measure from inside jaw to inside jaw (Figure 1).
  - On dry land, cannot have a jaw spread greater than 7½ inches.
  - If totally covered by water, it can have an inside jaw spread (width or height) greater than 7½ inches and no larger than 26 inches in width and 12 inches in height.
    - In areas of tidal waters, the mean high water is considered covering water.
    - In reservoir areas, covering water is the low water level prevailing during the preceding 24 hours.
    - Trap can be checked every 72 hours if completely submerged.
- In addition, if trapping for beaver, Conibear™-type traps can be set one-half covered by water, but must be checked daily.
Foothold Traps:
- Must be checked daily.
- Must be smooth-edged and without teeth or spikes.
- Must have a weather-resistant permanent tag attached legibly with the trapper’s name and address.
- Jaw Spread:
  - To measure jaw spread of a foot-hold trap, measure from inside jaw to inside jaw (Figure 2).
  - Cannot have a jaw spread greater than 7½ inches.
  - If the jaw spread is between 5½ and 7½ inches, the jaws must be offset by 3/16\(^\text{th}\) of an inch.
  - The jaws do not have to be offset if the trap is set in water with a quick-drown type set.
- Chain length:
  - Trap chain cannot be longer than 8 inches from anchor point to the base of the trap unless fitted with a shock-absorbing device with at least 40 lbs. and not more than 75 lbs. of pull.
  - Trap chain can be measured from anchor point (solid ground) to the base of the trap.
- An enclosed foothold trap (Figure 3) is a type of foothold trap and is a legal trap in North Carolina. Enclosed foothold traps are designed for particular species, especially raccoons, while minimizing the capture of other animals.

Box/cage Traps and Colony Traps:
- Must be checked daily.
- Must have a weather-resistant permanent tag attached legibly with the trapper’s name and address.

Snares:
- Must be checked daily.
- Can be used to trap only beaver, except where allowed by local law.
- Cannot be used to trap any other wildlife, except where allowed by local law.
- Must have a weather-resistant permanent tag attached legibly with the trapper’s name and address.
**Collarum™-type Traps:**
- Must be checked daily.
- Can be used only on coyotes and only under a depredation permit.
  - All non-targets must be released!
- Must have a weather-resistant permanent tag attached legibly with the trapper’s name and address.
- Collarum™ traps are the only approved brand approved for use in North Carolina (Figure 4).
- A Collarum™-type trap shall:
  - Have a cable that is 3/16" inch in diameter, a loop stop with a minimum loop diameter of three inches, a relaxing lock, and a breakaway device that has been tested to break or disassemble at no more than 285 pounds of pull (Figure 4).

Figure 4. A Collarum™ trap with a 3/16" cable, a loop stop (orange arrow), a relaxing lock (green arrow), and a breakaway device (blue arrow).

  - Have a set capture loop no less than 10 inches and no greater than 12 inches in diameter.
  - Be equipped with at least one swivel device between the loop and the anchor.
- Be staked in a manner that does not allow the animal or the restraint device to reach any part of a fence or reach rooted, woody vegetation greater than 1/2 inch in diameter.
- Not be set using a drag or used with a kill pole

- Users must fill out forms provided by the WRC within 30 days to report on efficiency and effectiveness of the Collarum™ trap:

  For forms, go to: [http://www.ncwildlife.org/Trapping/LawsSafety.aspx](http://www.ncwildlife.org/Trapping/LawsSafety.aspx)

  Below are hyperlinks to the forms on the internet:

  Demonstration on how to fill out a Collarum™ Reporting Form

  Collarum™ Reporting Form (27 KB PDF)

  If you use the Collarum™ trap for more than 10 days, please use these additional forms:

  Collarum™ Report Form 11-20 days (25 KB PDF)

  Collarum™ Report Form 21-30 days (22 KB PDF)