

New Design Requirements for Lynx Exclusion Devices

Note: the design specifications for lynx exclusion devices have changed. This is a legal description of the design specifications with photos. IFW will be posting photos, drawings, and a video on how to make a lynx exclusion device on our website (http://www.maine.gov/ifw/hunting_trapping/trapping/index.htm). In addition, we will provide this information in our annual Trapper Information Booklet which will be mailed to all licensed trappers in September.

For all exclusion devices, the jaws of the killer-type trap must be completely within the exclusion device; however, trap springs can be outside of the device.

Exclusion devices will have the following designs:

(1) For traps with a jaw spread less than or equal to 5 inches (primarily used for marten trapping), the device must have an opening of 4 x 4 inches or less. The entrance hole may be placed either on the end or on the side of the device, and the set trap must be a minimum of 18 inches from the closest edge of the entrance hole (Figure 1).

(2) For traps with a jaw spread greater than 5 inches but less than 8 inches, two designs may be constructed.

- a. The first design has an entrance hole on the end of the device that must not exceed 5 x 6 inches. A baffle must be placed no more than 6 inches back from the entrance hole and must not have an opening greater than 5 x 6 inches. With the baffle in place, the entrance hole and interior opening may not overlap to create an unobstructed view to the interior of the exclusion device (Figure 2a).
- b. For the second design the entrance hole must not exceed 6 x 7 inches and must be placed on the side of the device. A baffle must be placed at the edge of the entrance with the baffle opening opposite of the entrance hole, and the hole must not exceed 6 x 6 inches (Figure 2b).

For both devices the trap must be placed no closer than 18 inches from the closest edge of the entrance hole.

The exclusion device can be constructed of wood, plastic, or wire mesh. If using wire mesh, the mesh cannot exceed 1 ½ by 1 ½ inches, or 1 inch by 2 inch openings, (side to side). The wire mesh has to be 16 gauge or less (wire diameter of 0.05 inches or greater). The opening slot in the exclusion device that allows the trap springs to extend outside the device can be no more than 7 ½ inches wide and a height of no more than 1 ½ inches. The back of the device must be secured to withstand heavy pulling; if using wire mesh with a wood or plastic box, the wire mesh must wrap around two opposite sides of the box and be secured. There must be at least 1 attachment point for each side of the device where a joint or panels come together. The trap must be anchored outside of the exclusion device. Bait must not be visible from above. When enclosed in an exclusion device, killer-type traps can be set directly on the ground, or elevated in trees or on poles, with no specific requirements as to the height above ground or diameter of the tree or pole.

Figure 1. A photo showing 3 legal lynx exclusion devices made out of different materials: (from left to right) a) 1x1 inch wire, b) 1x2 inch wire, and c) 1x2 inch wire with a plastic newspaper box. All exclusion devices have a 4 x 4 inch opening and are constructed for a killer-type trap with a jaw spread less than or equal to 5 inches (primarily used for marten trapping).

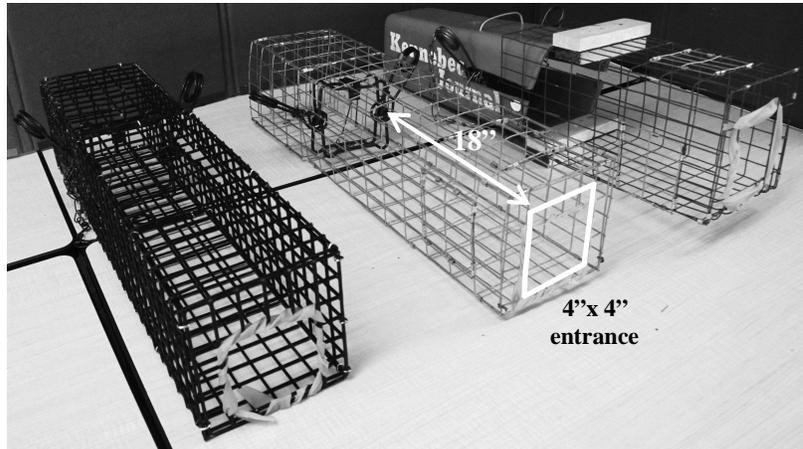
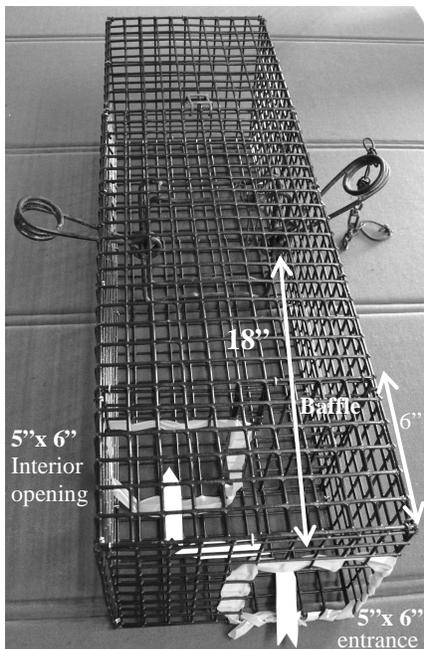
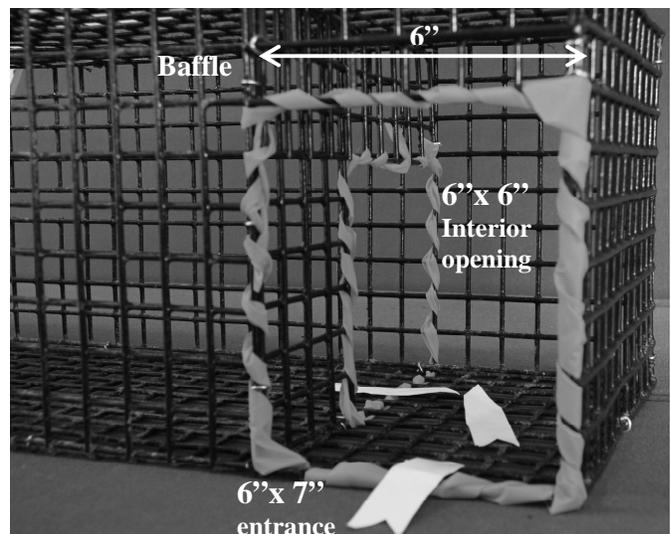


Figure 2. Legal exclusion devices for killer-type traps having a jaw spread between 5 and 8 inches. **2a.** is an example of a device with an entrance hole on the end of the device. The entrance hole must not exceed 5 x 6 inches. A baffle must be placed no more than 6 inches back from the entrance hole and must not have an opening greater than 5 x 6 inches. With the baffle in place, the entrance hole and interior opening may not overlap to create an unobstructed view to the interior of the exclusion device. **2b.** is an example of a device where the entrance hole is placed on the side of the device and must not exceed 6 x 7 inches. A baffle must be placed at the edge of the entrance with the baffle opening opposite of the entrance hole, and the hole must not exceed 6 x 6 inches.

a.



b.



Flagging in these photo are used to illustrate the location of the entrance and is not a requirement.