

UK DOC Trap Instructions

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Introduction

All three models of DOC trap are approved in the UK for trapping stoat (*Mustela erminea*) and other species, in both run-through and closed end sets. This species is subject to the trap welfare requirements of the Agreement on International Humane Trapping Standards (AIHTS). The AIHTS standards are met if the time to irrecoverable unconsciousness does not exceed prescribed species-specific time limits. Not only must the time limit be met, but it must be met consistently. This consistency is achieved by using baffles to control how the target animal approaches the trap.

Baffles

The trap and baffle must be fixed so that their relative positions cannot change. The gap between them and the tunnel sides must be no more than 10mm, so that an animal cannot squeeze past, but not be so close as to impede the action of the trap.

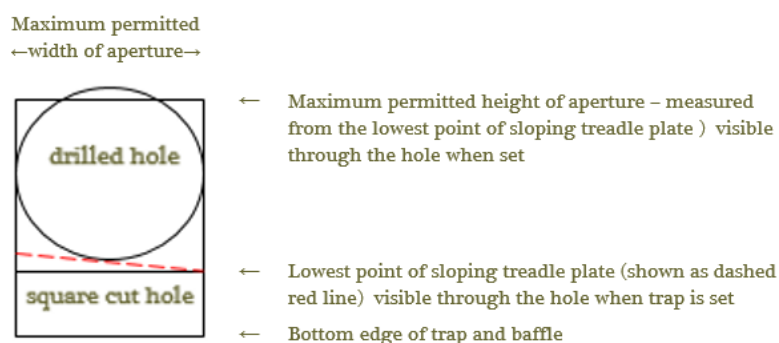
Similarly, the gap between the trap and baffle must be no more than 10mm but not be so close as to impede the action of the trap.

The required baffle arrangements differ depending whether the trap is used in:

- a closed-end tunnel (a tunnel which can only be entered from one end), or
- a run-through tunnel (a tunnel which can be entered from either direction).

The baffle may be made from any suitable material, but its dimensions and placement relative to the trap must comply with the instructions that follow (pages 4 and 5) which prescribe the arrangement and aperture size of baffles in each of these types of tunnel.

If a solid material is to be used for the internal baffle, the widest point of the drilled hole should not exceed the maximum permitted width and height measured from where the lowest point of the hole meets the sloping treadle plate when set (see illustration).



Tunnels and Chassis

Pages 4 and 5 show how the trap and baffle arrangements can be part of either a complete trap tunnel requiring access to the trap via an opening lid (Fig 4), or a separate rigid 'chassis', which can be slid in and out of a separate tunnel (Fig 3).

Tunnels must be 'suitable for the purpose' with respect to selectivity (exclusion of non-target species), convenience in operation and human safety. How this is done is left to discretion of the operator, allowing some flexibility over materials, dimensions, and tunnel entrance size according to circumstances.

The trap must be firmly secured to a rigid base (Fig 1). Either to the floor of the trap tunnel itself (Fig 4) or to the base of separate rigid 'chassis' (Fig 3).

Tunnel entrance(s) must be designed to minimise the risk of access by non-target animals. Measures such as using external excluders at the tunnel entrance(s) are usually employed to achieve this.

External excluders can be made of any suitable materials and be of any configuration, which practicably minimises the likelihood of it killing, taking or injuring non-target species, without unreasonably compromising the trap's use.

If using weld mesh to make an external excluder, we suggest a 65mm (2½inch) wide x 80mm (3⅛inch) high aperture made by removing 6 wide x 8 high squares if using 10mm weld mesh. If using ½ inch weld mesh, remove 5 wide x 6 high squares. External and internal apertures should be staggered so a bird or animal reaching into the tunnel, cannot directly access the trap:

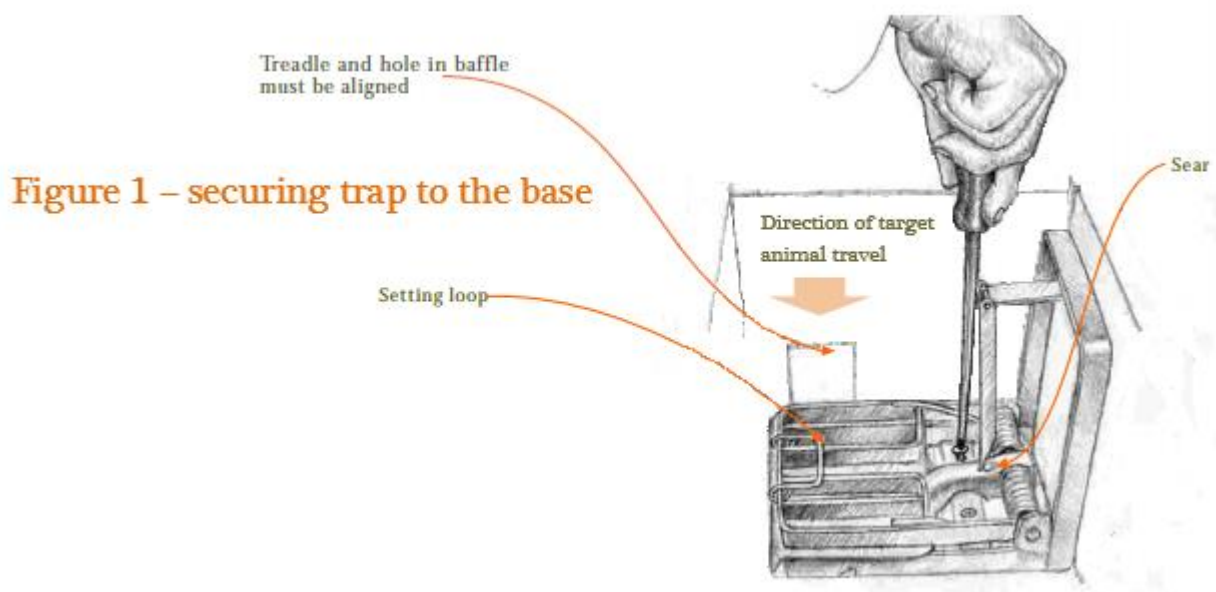


Figure 1 – securing trap to the base

Setting the trap

If you are using bait in a closed end tunnel put it in place before setting the trap.

Pull carefully on the wire setting loop with your hand. Continue past the top of the trigger arm, allowing the trigger arm to drop onto the treadle.

SLOWLY release pressure, allowing the bottom of the trigger arm to gently ride up the treadle and catch the sear.

After setting, the trap can be temporarily secured using the safety clip provided whilst you locate the trap into its final position. If using a rigid chassis (Fig 3), remove the safety clip before sliding the chassis into the tunnel.

Make sure that the wire loop is lying flat against the trap frame and remember to take the safety clip off before you leave the trap or it will not go off.

Do not attempt to remove the safety clip after sliding a rigid 'chassis' into a tunnel. If you forget, slide the chassis out before removing the safety clip, then carefully slide the chassis back in again.

Warning traps are dangerous during setting and once set. Care must be taken when handling and setting them.

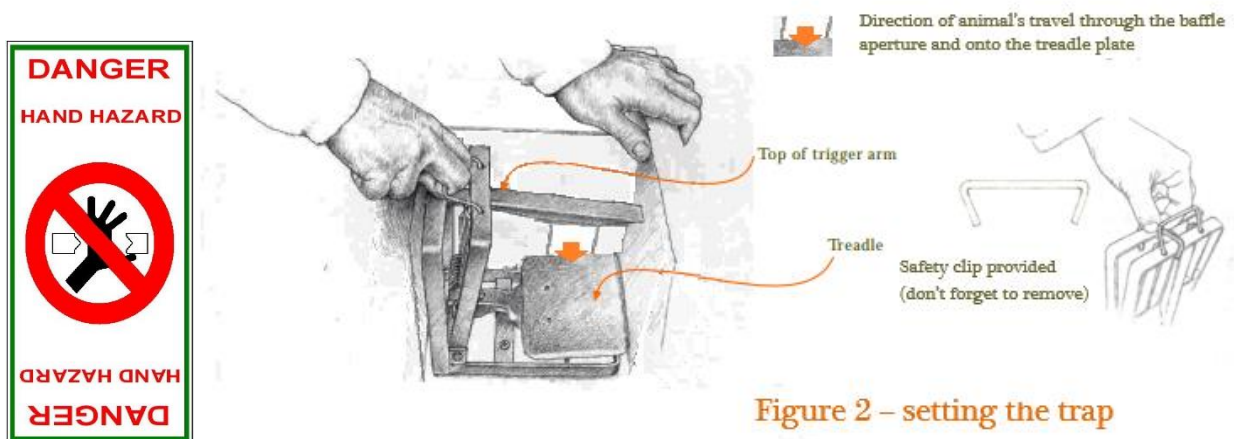


Figure 2 – setting the trap

The user agrees to use the trap at their own risk and the manufacturer takes no responsibility for any harm caused.

Baffle arrangement in run-through tunnels

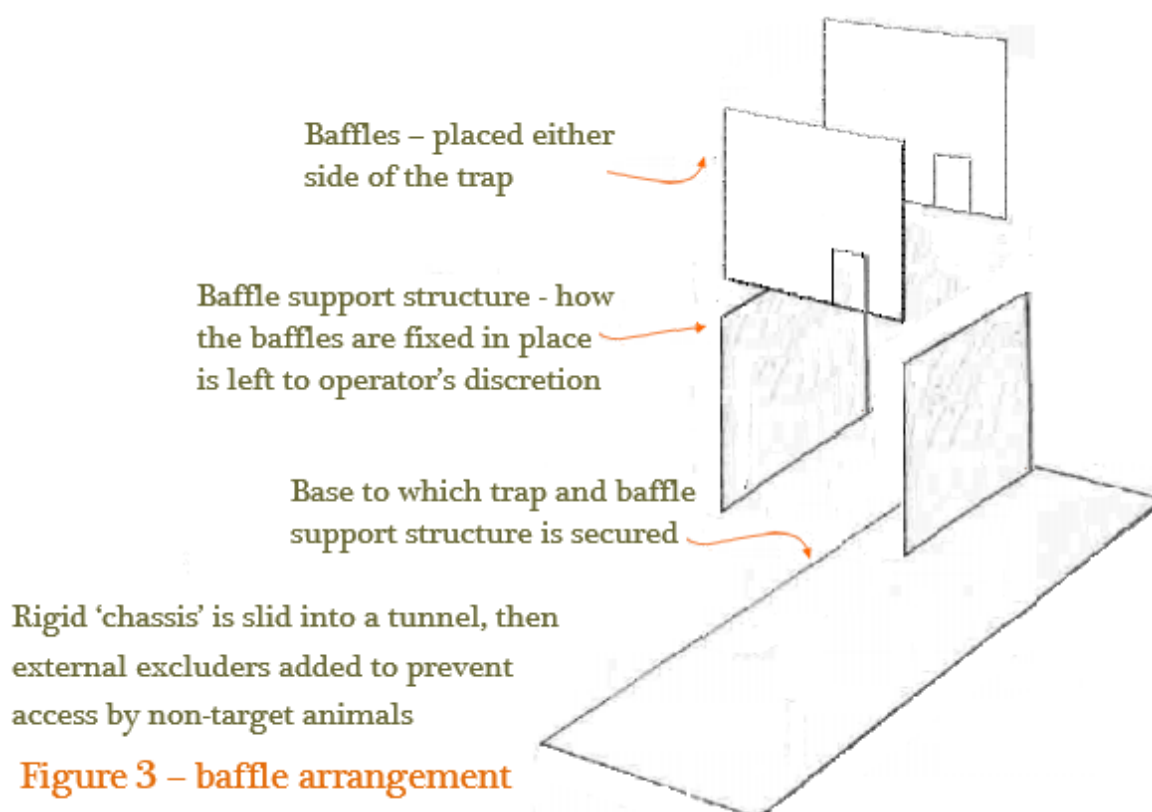
For run-through tunnels, two baffles must be used, one each side of the trap, with their holes aligned (see Fig 3), so that approaching animals are slowed and guided over the 'strike area' of the trap whichever direction they approach from. **Note that baffle apertures (holes) must be smaller for run-through tunnels than for closed-end tunnels.**

For run-through tunnels, baffle apertures must be no wider than 51mm (2inch) and no higher than 51mm (2inch) above the lowest point of the sloping treadle plate, visible through the hole when the trap is set. For the DOC150 and DOC200, the permitted height is about 65mm (2½inch) measured from the bottom edge of the trap and baffle. See the hole cutting diagram on page 1.

For the DOC 250, the height of the aperture can be increased to provide the maximum permitted 51mm (2inch) above the lowest point of the sloping treadle plate, visible through the hole when the trap is set.

For 51mm (2inch), cut 5 squares if using 10mm weld mesh or 4 squares if using ½ inch weld mesh.

For 65mm (2½inch) cut 6 squares if using 10mm weld mesh or 5 squares if using ½ inch weld mesh.



Rigid 'chassis' is slid into a tunnel, then external excluders added to prevent access by non-target animals

Baffle arrangement in closed-end tunnels

For tunnels with one end closed, a baffle must be used adjacent to the trap, so that an animal approaching from the tunnel entrance is slowed and guided over the 'strike area' of the trap (Fig 4).

The inner baffle aperture (hole) in closed-end tunnels must be no more than 65mm (2½inch) wide and no higher than 65mm (2½inch) above the lowest point of the sloping treadle plate, visible through the hole when the trap is set. For the DOC150 and DOC200, this is about 80mm (3¼inch) from the bottom edge of the trap and baffle. See the hole cutting diagram on page 1. **Note that this is a larger aperture size than that permitted for run-through inner baffles.**

For the DOC 250, the height of the aperture can be increased to provide the maximum permitted 65mm (2½inch) above the lowest point of the sloping treadle plate, visible through the hole when the trap is set.

For 65mm (2½inch), cut 6 squares if using 10mm weld mesh or 5 squares if using ½ inch weld mesh.

For 80mm (3¼inch) cut 8 squares if using 10mm weld mesh or 6 squares if using ½ inch weld mesh

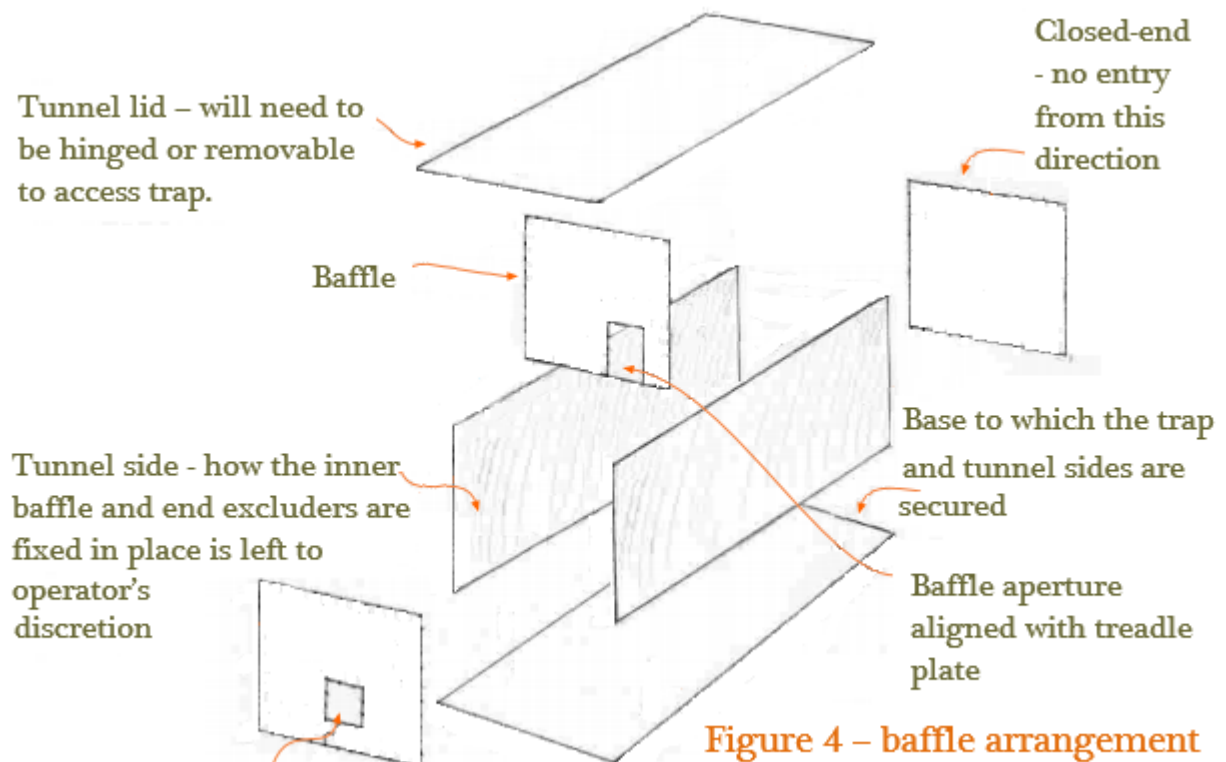


Figure 4 – baffle arrangement

External tunnel end hole - size and position left to operator's discretion

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Traps and setting tools are available from the manufacturer, CMI Springs and via UK stockists – see stockists at www.predatortraps.com.

Trap development contacts and feedback

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