

Beaver/Otter Live Trap/Maintenance

You have just purchased the most versatile, unique live trap ever developed, in the Comstock swim through Live Beaver and Otter trap. It is the only double powered door swim through trap in the world that actually performs best when set upside down. Though this trap will fire and capture animals in any position, on land, in water or completely submerged, with wire trigger and power door combination, the traps seem to work best when set upside down in and under water in a swim through scenario. When placed upside down, the potential for door jamming debris is greatly reduced. Most debris is pushed under the doors at placement, while any debris above the doors can be readily seen and quickly removed. When set upside down as a swimming animal is gently lifted upward and pushed forward into the trap at capture, reducing the possibility of backing out.

For live trapping, when set upside down, the trap should be placed in water 10 inches deep. For live trapping when set sideways in water, the trap should be set in ten to 16 inches of water. The trap can be set on land right side up or sideways, but was designed primarily for use in water. Traps may be set in channels of any depth, but the captured animal will not remain alive.

Though the trap was designed for double door usage, the trap will function when set with either one or both doors in the loaded position.

This is the only trap that has a variable pressure trigger system. Most of the time the trigger is used on the lightest setting. For the lightest setting the door hook will be placed farthest away from the trip rod on the drop bar. When the door hook is placed closest to the trip rod on the short drop bar, the trigger is at maximum pressure for firing. The advantage in this system over any other is that when set heavy or light, there is not variation in trap stability. It is never touchy or set on "the edge."

The contact point between the trip rod tab and swing bar post is the most critical element in maintaining light, smooth firing. If the trigger becomes "stiff," from rust, it may be necessary to file the contact points or add a bit of grease. Caution, this could make the trigger super light. It should be noted that even if the trigger seems a bit stiff in dry firing, water adds lubricity to the trap and it will fire more easily when set.

Trigger wires can easily be replaced with only pair of wire cutters or even by hand at times without tools. Simply removed the old wires, then bend and replace with a new 17 inch piece of 14 gage soft wire. Of course you may use wire longer or shorter, personal preference.

Trigger wires are subject to increased bending when live trapping. To straighten bent trigger wires, place the trap upside down with door facing out on the tailgate or table. Push in the lock bar and depress the door until it is lying flat as in the set position. You may put a rod through the door to hold open or simply place your elbows on the door to hold it down while you straighten the trigger wires using both hands and can be accomplished quickly.

Traps may rust in usage. For maintainance, a bit of spray paint will keep them in good running order.