

Fastening and Stabilizing Snares

Like any other trapping device, a snare must be fastened in place to hold the animal while it is detained in the snare. Ohio regulations require that a snare be fastened to a solid, immovable object or that it be staked.

One easy way to fasten a snare is to stake it in place as you would a foothold trap. Make sure the stake is long enough and strong enough to hold any animal that might get in the snare. Wood stakes can be used for snares, but many trappers prefer to use steel stakes because they are more durable.

In using a snare on a stake, you should try to provide swiveling at the stake as you would for a foothold trap. With a wood stake, the snare swivel itself may provide the swiveling action you need. Some snare swivels are designed to accept a steel stake right through the swivel. You also have the option of fastening a regular stake swivel or s-hook to the end of the snare to provide for use with a steel stake.

For larger animals, like coyotes, you may want to consider using a cross-stake system to hold the snare. The same devices used to cross stake foothold traps can be used to cross stake a snare.

The other option for fastening a snare is to anchor it to an immovable object. Usually this comes in the form of a tree or a large log that the animal cannot move. If the anticipated path of the target animal comes close to a tree or a log, this would be a good place to construct a set.

To fasten a snare to a tree or log use a piece of heavy gauge wire to completely encircle the trunk. Pass the wire through the snare swivel and twist it closed.

Sometimes a snare is not quite long enough to reach the object that you want to fasten it to. In this case, you should use an extension made of snare cable to lengthen the snare. You can purchase these or make them using a length of cable and forming a loop in each end. NEVER, use wire

to extend a snare. A wire snare extension could easily kink and break as the animal struggles in the snare.

Another aspect of getting a snare in place is stabilizing the snare so it hangs in the proper position. A snare must be supported so that the loop hangs vertically and will be in the proper position to intercept the animal.

The best way to do this is with a piece of wire. One end of the wire is fastened to the snare cable and the other end of the wire is anchored solidly. Bending the wire allows you to position the snare.

In attaching the wire to the snare, there are several options. You can bend a small hook in the wire and crimp this onto the snare cable. However, crimping the wire to the snare may interfere with the action of the swivel. Another way to attach the wire to the snare is to bend the end of the wire into the shape of an "N" and thread the snare cable into it. Some snares are equipped with coiled wire support collars that will accept a certain size wire. Here the wire is slid under the support collar where it pinches against the cable.

For the anchored end of the stabilizer wire, you can wrap the wire around a stake or wrap it around a tree or log, especially if you have fastened your snare to this object. One option is to leave a long tail on the fastening wire and use this tail to support the snare. You can also anchor the end of the support wire by spearing it into the ground.

Wire in size 11 or 12 gauge, or larger, is best for fastening and stabilizing snares. You should not, however, use wire to extend the length of a snare. When an animal is detained in a snare, it has the use of all four feet and can pull hard against the fastening. If wire gets kinked and bent, it can readily break. If you need to extend the length of a snare, use a piece of snare cable with a loop formed in each end. The cable is designed to hold up under the struggles of the animal.

Fastening Snares

Snares must be solidly anchored to hold the captured animal. Ohio law requires that snares be fastened to a solid, immovable object; or the snare may be staked.



Using a stake is a good way to fasten a snare. Steel stakes often serve better for land trapping because they are more durable. This snare has a swivel that will fit on the stake.



The stake system must be strong enough to hold the largest animal that can get in the snare. In poor soil conditions it may be necessary to use a cross stake system.



If the snare swivel does not fit well on the stake, you can use a regular stake swivel and fasten it to the snare. Here a box swivel is used. An s-hook would also work.



Snares can also be fastened to solid, immovable objects. This snare is fastened to a log.

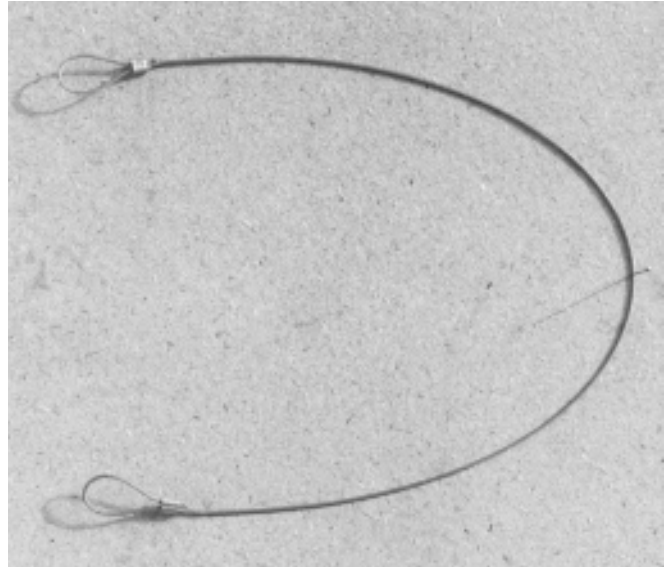


A large tree makes a good, solid anchor for a snare. Look for locations where trails pass close to a tree.

Fastening Snares (continued)



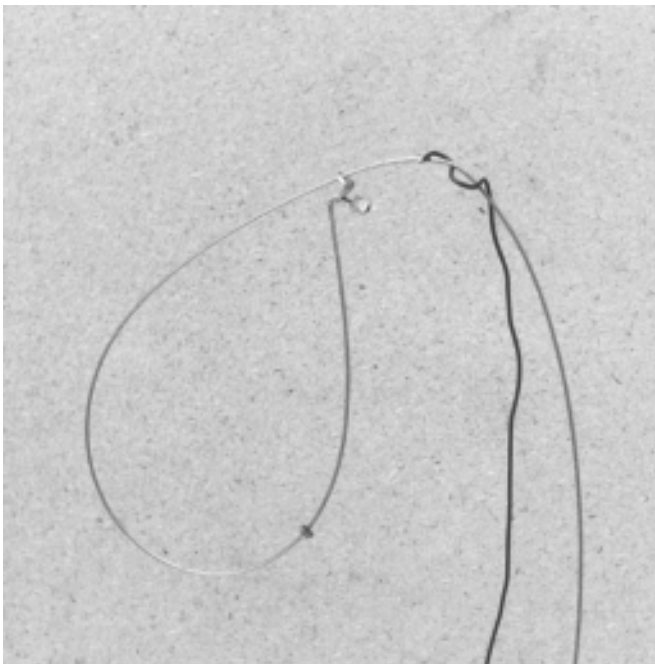
Use a length of heavy gauge wire wrapped around the object to fasten the snare. Pass the wire through the snare swivel.



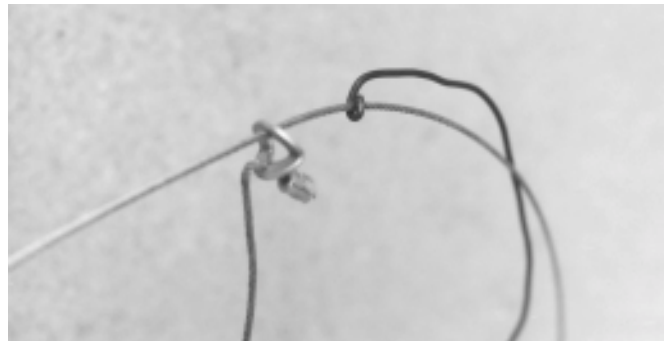
If you need to extend the length of a snare, use an extension made of snare cable. NEVER use wire for extending a snare.

Stabilizing Snares

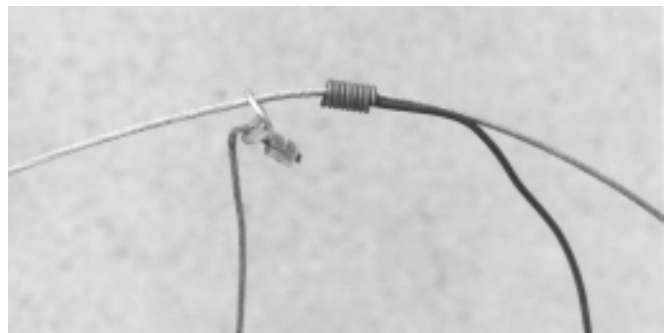
To function properly, the snare loop must be held in a fixed position to intercept the animal. Heavy gauge wire works best for stabilizing snares. One end of the wire is affixed to the snare, and the other end of the wire is anchored to make it stable.



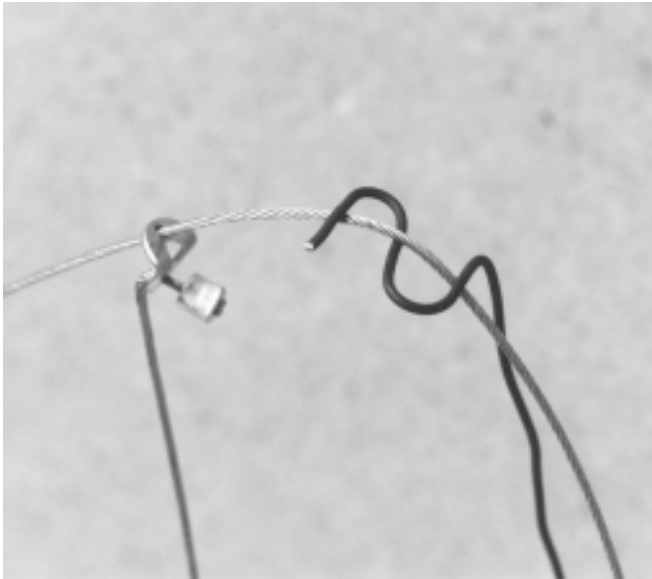
A support, or stabilizer, wire is used to hold the snare loop in position.



One method for fastening the wire to the cable is to make a small bend in the end of the wire and crimp it onto the snare. However, this wire may interfere with the swivel because it is crimped on the cable.



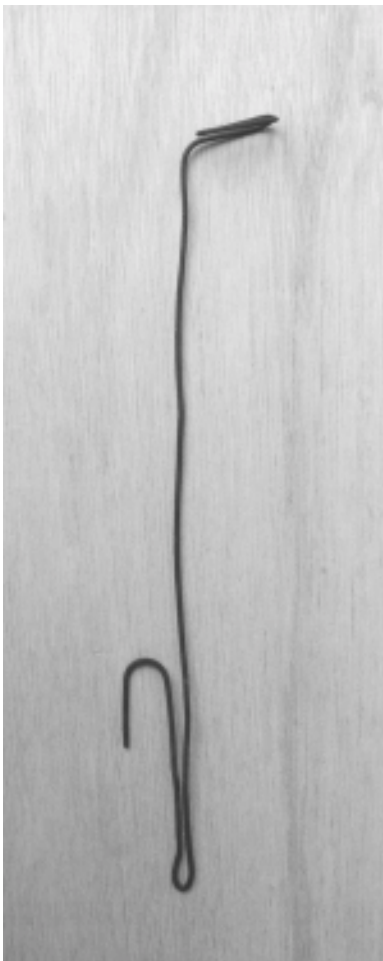
Some snares are equipped with wire collars. The stabilizer wire is inserted inside the support collar. However, these support collars are designed to take only a certain size wire. Usually they are made to use 9 gauge wire.



This is another way to fasten a stabilizer wire to a snare. The end of the wire is bent into the shape of an "N" and the snare cable is threaded into it.



One way to anchor the support wire is to fasten it to a small stake as in this example. The wire could also be fastened to the stake you use to hold the snare.



Another way to anchor the support wire is to tie it around the object to which you have fastened the snare. Here, a long tail was left on the fastening wire to make the snare support wire.

(Left) You can make a support wire that is self standing by doubling the end of the wire then bending a short hook at the tip. (Right) The doubled end of the wire is pushed into the ground. The hook catches in the ground to keep the wire from spinning around.

