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Tomahawk Live Trap DT1

Tomahawk Live Trap Model DT1 Instruction Manual

For the humane capture of wary cats

1. INTRODUCTION

This manual provides comprehensive instructions for the safe and effective use of the Tomahawk Live Trap Model DT1. This collapsible drop trap is specifically designed for the humane capture of wary or trap-shy cats, making it an ideal tool for Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) programs and other animal welfare initiatives. Please read this manual thoroughly before operating the trap to ensure proper setup, use, and maintenance.

2. SAFETY INFORMATION

Adhering to these safety guidelines is crucial for the well-being of both the user and the captured animal.

- Always wear thick, protective gloves when handling the trap, especially after an animal has been captured, to prevent bites or scratches.
- Ensure the trap is placed on a stable, level surface to prevent it from tipping over once deployed or when an animal is inside.
- Never leave a captured animal unattended for extended periods. Check the trap frequently. Prolonged confinement can cause stress, dehydration, or injury to the animal.
- Handle captured animals with care and minimize direct contact. Use appropriate transfer cages or methods for safe relocation or transport.
- Familiarize yourself with local laws and regulations regarding animal trapping and release before using this product.
- Keep children and pets away from the trap area during operation.

3. PACKAGE CONTENTS

Verify that all components are present upon unpacking:

- One (1) Tomahawk Live Trap Model DT1 (Collapsible Drop Trap)

4. SETUP INSTRUCTIONS

The Tomahawk Live Trap Model DT1 is designed for easy setup and collapse for transport and storage.

1. **Unfolding the Trap:** Carefully unfold the collapsed trap from its compact state (approximately 36" x 18" x 4") into its full operational dimensions (36"L x 36"W x 14"H). Ensure all panels are securely locked into place.
2. **Positioning the Drop Mechanism:** Identify the drop door and its support mechanism. The trap is designed to be propped up, allowing the animal to enter underneath.
3. **Preparing for Deployment:** The trap typically uses a string or rope attached to the prop mechanism, allowing the user to remotely release the prop and drop the trap over the animal. Attach a suitable length of string or rope to the release mechanism.
4. **Pre-baiting (Optional but Recommended):** For wary animals, it is highly recommended to place food under the propped-up trap for several days without setting the drop mechanism. This allows the animal to become accustomed to eating under the trap, reducing their wariness.

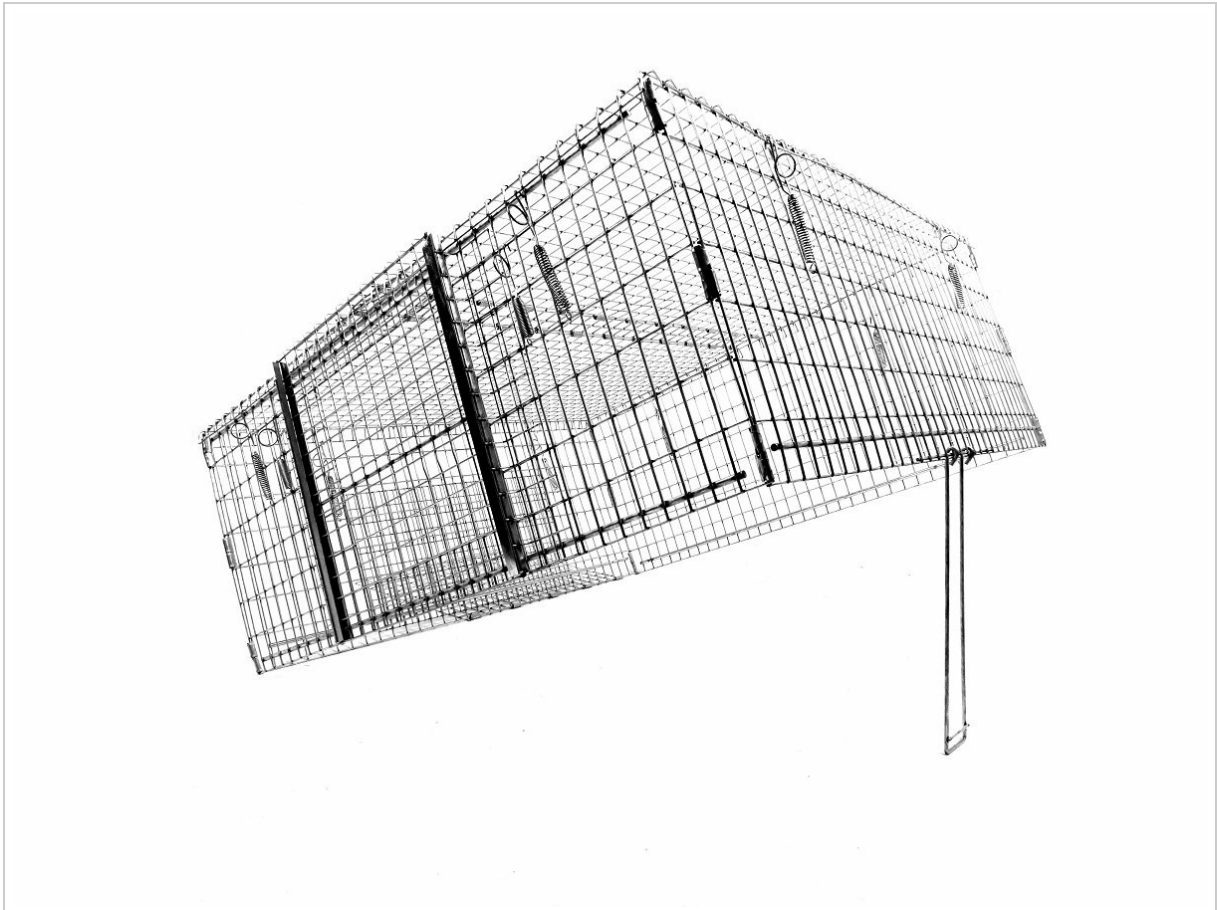


Figure 1: The Tomahawk Live Trap Model DT1 in its fully assembled and propped-up state, ready for use.

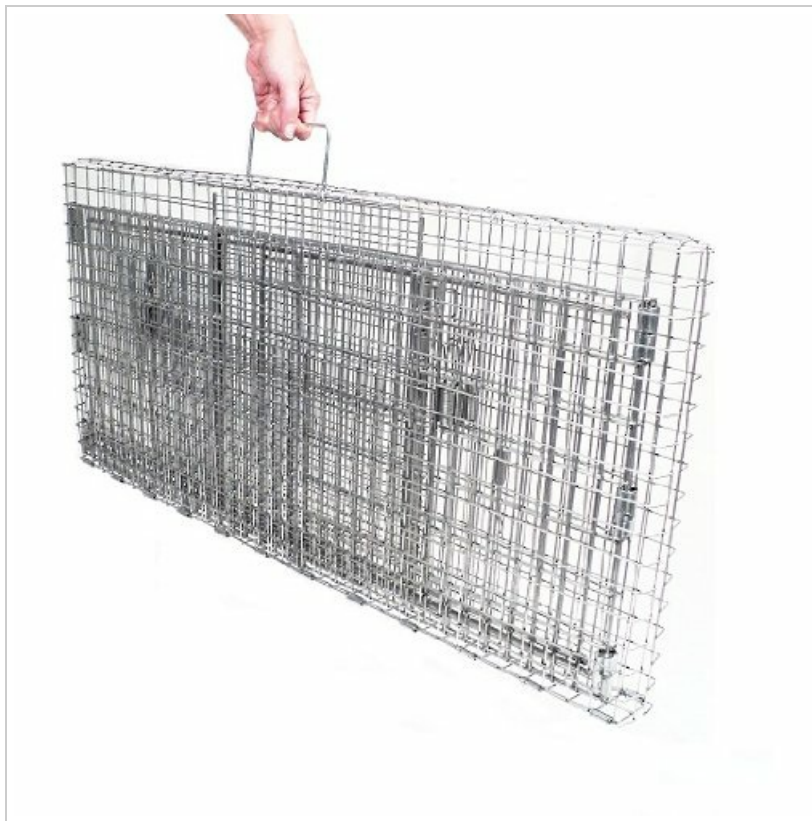


Figure 2: The Tomahawk Live Trap Model DT1 shown in its collapsed configuration, demonstrating its portability.

5. OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

Follow these steps for effective and humane trapping:

1. **Baiting the Trap:** Place enticing bait (e.g., wet cat food, sardines) directly under the center of the propped-up trap. Ensure the bait is visible and accessible to the target animal.
2. **Setting the Drop Mechanism:** Once the trap is propped up and baited, position yourself at a discreet distance with the string/rope attached to the release mechanism. Ensure you have a clear view of the trap.
3. **Monitoring and Deployment:** Wait patiently for the target animal to enter completely under the trap and begin eating the bait. When the animal is fully inside and positioned, pull the string/rope firmly to release the prop, causing the trap to drop and enclose the animal.
4. **Securing the Trap:** After the trap has dropped, approach it carefully. Ensure the drop door is fully closed and secured to prevent escape.
5. **Animal Transfer/Release:** The trap features an easy release door for safe transfer of the captured animal into a transfer cage or for release. Always wear protective gloves during this process. Minimize handling and stress to the animal.

6. MAINTENANCE

Proper maintenance ensures the longevity and effectiveness of your trap.

- **Cleaning:** After each use, especially after capturing an animal, clean the trap thoroughly with a mild disinfectant and rinse with water. Allow it to air dry completely to prevent rust and eliminate residual scents that might deter future captures.
- **Inspection:** Regularly inspect the trap for any signs of damage, such as bent wires, broken welds, or malfunctioning parts. Repair or replace damaged components before further use.
- **Storage:** When not in use, collapse the trap to its compact size (36" x 18" x 4") for easy transport and storage. Store it in a dry place to protect the alloy steel material from environmental elements.

7. TROUBLESHOOTING

Refer to this section for common issues and their solutions.

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
Animal not entering the trap.	Trap-shy animal, insufficient bait, trap scent, or improper placement.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Pre-bait the trap for several days without setting the drop mechanism.◦ Use highly attractive bait.◦ Clean the trap thoroughly to remove human or previous animal scents.◦ Place the trap in a quiet, secluded area where the animal feels safe.
Trap not dropping correctly or smoothly.	Obstruction in the mechanism, bent components, or incorrect string attachment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Inspect the drop mechanism for any debris or bent wires.◦ Ensure the string/rope is securely attached and has a clear path for pulling.◦ Test the drop mechanism several times before actual deployment.
Animal escapes after capture.	Drop door not fully secured, or damage to the trap.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Immediately after dropping, ensure the door is fully closed and locked.◦ Inspect the trap for any gaps or weaknesses in the wire mesh.

8. SPECIFICATIONS

Model Number	SZ-SL3616WL (also known as DT1)
Brand	Tomahawk Live Trap
Material	Alloy Steel
Product Dimensions (Set Up)	36"L x 36"W x 14"H
Product Dimensions (Collapsed)	36"L x 18"W x 4"H
Item Weight	14 Pounds
Target Species	Cat

9. WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

For warranty information, product support, or to inquire about replacement parts, please contact the manufacturer, Tomahawk Live Trap, or your authorized retailer directly. Retain your proof of purchase for any warranty claims.

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