

HOMEMADE PLYWOOD CAT OR POSSUM CAGE



(These instructions are not comprehensive details and require some basic construction knowledge). Making them is a great activity for volunteers.

Materials Required

Tanalised plywood

Sides- 2 x 300mm x 600mm Floor- 300 x 600
Roof- 300 x 580mm Front spacers- 2x 300m x 30mm
Platform- 120mm x 220mm

About 1800mm x 40mm cut into 4 lengths to attach over the mesh and frame at the back of the box (see the drawings)

Tanalised 25mm x 25mm framing

Sides- 4 x 600mm long Horizontal framing- 4 x 250 long
Uprights- 2 x 250mm long, 2 x 500mm long

About 300mm of stiff wire to attach to the platform. Long enough to go through the platform and staple underneath then just emerge out of the hole in the roof when the platform is tilted down at the front. It needs to fall into the box when the platform tilts down at the rear.

Thin rod or heavy stiff wire to be the platform pivot. (about 280 long)

1 piece 300 x 300mm welded mesh with holes approx 25mm x 25mm.

1 piece 270mm x 350mm, 2mm gauge steel for the door.

1 length approx. 610mm cord about 6mm diam.

Steel ring or washer to attach on the end of the cord where it goes over the emerging wire.

Construction

- Rout two 3mm grooves in the inner front of the 2 longer upright pieces of framing.
- Cut shallow grooves or channels in the bottom frame plates about 180mm from the back for the platform rod.
- Attach the rod to the platform with small staples so the platform pivots.
- Attach wire to platform.
- Secure platform in grooves with staples so it will tilt and will trigger the door.
- Make rest of frame from 25mm x 25mm framing.
- Drill hole in centre of roof about 120mm from back.
- Nail the plywood over bottom, sides, roof and front spacers.
- Cover the rear with mesh then frame with the strips of plywood edging to provide extra security. Drill a hole in the centre of the door, 45mm from the bottom to put the cord through and tie off. Adjust the length of the cord so it threads up behind the door through the cord space in the box roof and then to the metal ring which sits over the emerging wire. It is to be long enough to hold the door open for animal to enter. Attach the ring on the end of the cord. Adjust the length of the emerging wire if necessary.

Use

- Place the bait (fruit or meat) in the trap, between the back of the platform and the mesh. Ensure the platform does not jam in the open position.
- To set - Push the wire up through the hole in the roof so it just emerges. Place the ring over the wire. The platform should be tilted so the front is at the lowest point.
- When the animal enters it goes towards the bait, puts weight on the platform, and lowers the rear of the platform which lowers the wire into the box. This releases the ring and cord which allows the weight of the steel door to shut behind the animal.

Live capture traps must be checked daily. If an animal is caught in this cage it will not be hurt and because it is constructed of plywood the cat will be sheltered from the weather.

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