



# Coyote Control - What a landowner CAN do in South Carolina

**Hunting/Shooting:** There is no closed hunting season on coyotes. Coyotes may be hunted year 'round on private lands with a valid hunting license. A free depredation permit can be issued to landowners that do not have a hunting license (see Depredation Permits). On private lands, coyotes may be hunted with any firearm during daylight hours at any time of the year.

**Night Hunting Coyotes:** Coyotes may only be hunted *at night* under the following conditions:

- By registering\* the property with DNR online at: [www.dnr.sc.gov/nighthunt](http://www.dnr.sc.gov/nighthunt)
- In accordance to a DNR-issued depredation permit (see Depredation Permits section below)

\*The landowner must [register with DNR](http://www.dnr.sc.gov/nighthunt) any properties on where night hunting activities for coyotes are going to take place. This registration is required annually as prescribed by DNR for each property. An annual summary of night hunting activities is required before a property can be re-registered the following year. This registration also allows for the night hunting of armadillos, feral hogs, and coyotes for every registered property. For more information see [www.dnr.sc.gov/nighthunt](http://www.dnr.sc.gov/nighthunt). (SC Code of Laws §50-11-700 et seq.)

Persons convicted of certain night hunting violations during the previous five years are ineligible to hunt coyotes at night (SC Code of Laws §50-11-715). A permit is required from a local DNR Law Enforcement Officer for anyone to hunt or shoot coyotes at night on any property that is not currently registered for Night Hunting with DNR.

**Bait, Electronic Calls:** The use of bait and electronic calls is allowed for hunting coyotes during the day or night on private lands statewide. The use of any legal firearm, bow and arrow, or crossbow is allowed on private lands statewide.

**Trapping:** The normal trapping season for licensed trappers is Dec. 1 - Mar. 1. HOWEVER, a property owner may obtain a free depredation permit to trap outside of the normal trapping season and/or without a trapping license (see *Depredation Permits* section below for more information).

**Legal Traps:** (A separate [Trapping Regulations](#) brochure is available)

- **Snares:** The use of snares is *illegal* for use in land sets. All coyote sets are considered land sets.
- **Foothold traps:** Trap size must be 5 3/4" or smaller for land sets (see Figure 1 below). All coyote sets are generally considered land sets.
- **Live traps:** In certain situations coyotes have been caught in live traps, but in general these traps are large and generally much less effective.

**Except for licensed trappers during the trapping season (Dec. 1 – Mar. 1 and 30 days after), the possession and relocation of live coyotes is illegal!**

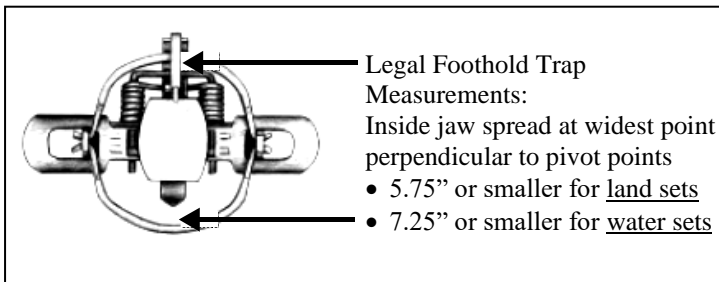


Figure 1. Measuring foothold traps

DNR publishes a separate Coyote brochure with biological information and additional control tips including trap preparation and trap set examples. This is also available online at:  
<http://www.dnr.sc.gov/wildlife/coyote/coyoteinfo.pdf>

**Depredation Permits:** A depredation permit allows a property owner (or their designee) to trap or shoot damage-causing coyotes without any kind of license or season restrictions. The permit is FREE and available from any of DNR's offices or conservation officers. These permits may also be obtained over the phone. This permit will be good for 30 days for a specific site (such as Mr. Smith's farm).

- **The 100-yard Exemption:** Within 100-yards of the property owner's residence (so long as you are still on your own property), coyotes may be trapped or shot (if it is legal to discharge a firearm at the property's location) *WITHOUT ANY KIND OF LICENSE OR PERMIT*. This exemption applies to the property owner or his/her designee (such as a friend, relative, or any other person designated by the property owner).
- **Depredation Permits to shoot at night:** Except as provided under normal night hunting regulations as stated in the Hunting/Shooting section above, a depredation permit to shoot coyotes at night **MUST** be obtained from a local DNR conservation officer (check local firearms ordinances first). If you do not know a local DNR officer, contact the DNR at 803-955-4000 or 1-800-922-5431 and ask to have a local DNR officer contact you.
- **Predator Management Permits:** A special depredation permit to trap coyotes *for wildlife management purposes* and not for traditional depredation issues such as livestock losses and problems around the home. *This permit is specifically for hunt clubs and other large properties primarily used for hunting.* Only valid outside of trapping season (Mar.1 - Nov.30). Year end harvest report required. Issued by the Furbearer Project in Columbia Office.

**Non-Lethal Options:** These options are for reducing coyote damage without removing the coyote.

- **Cultural Techniques:** Confinement of livestock and small pets – especially at night - can lessen predation problems. Cleaning up brushy, grassy and weedy areas that attract small mammals (rabbits and rodents – a coyote's primary food source) can make your property less appealing to coyotes.
- **Guard Animals:** Certain animals have been successfully utilized as guard animals for livestock. Certain dog breeds (such as Great Pyrenees), donkeys, mules, and llamas have been used to protect livestock.
- **Wire Barriers:** Fences and fencing can prevent coyotes from entering an area if properly constructed. Buried aprons can prevent digging under a fence and overhangs or electric wires can prevent climbing over a fence. The DNR Coyote Brochure discusses fences in more detail.

**Wildlife Control Operators (WCOs):** For those property owners that wish to pay someone to trap coyotes for them (usually for a fee), the list of Wildlife Control Operators is available from any local DNR office or online at <http://www.dnr.sc.gov/wildlife/control.html>. These companies and individuals perform wildlife control services on a contract-fee basis. WCOs are not DNR employees and are not affiliated with the DNR. It is important to ask for references before hiring a WCO. Have all fees and guarantees in writing.

**Questions:** For more information about coyotes, legal issues, control techniques, trapping advice, or anything else coyote-related, contact the DNR Furbearer Project at 803-734-3609.