



Roxy's Law Information

The Wildlife Conservation & Public Safety Act

Traps, Snares, & Poisons are Now Prohibited on New Mexico's Public Lands



Roxy photo courtesy of Kathrina Clark

The Wildlife Conservation and Public Safety Act—nicknamed “Roxy’s Law” in honor of the beloved senior dog killed by a snare in 2018—prohibits the use of traps, snares, and poisons for the purposes of capturing, injuring, or killing an animal on New Mexico’s public lands, unless the use meets one of the law’s exceptions. This law went into effect April 1, 2022.

**Public Lands
Where
Roxy’s Law
Applies**

Federal lands: all lands administered by the National Park Service, United States Fish & Wildlife Service, United States Forest Service, Federal Bureau of Land Management, United States Department of Defense.

State lands: all lands owned, leased, or held in trust by the state of New Mexico, including lands administered by the State Park Service, State Land Office, counties, and municipalities.

**Lands Where
Roxy’s Law
Does Not
Apply**

- The interior of physical structures.
- Land belonging to or held in trust for an Indigenous nation, tribe, or pueblo.
- Privately owned land.

**Exceptions
Include**

- Lawful hunting and fishing tools such as firearms and archery, fishing, and falconry equipment.
- The taking or control of birds, fish, or rodents not defined as furbearers.
- Government entities acting to prevent threats to human safety, or to conduct ecosystem management.
- Trapping conducted by the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish to reduce or prevent damage caused by wildlife to property or waterways.
- Use of cage traps to recover or to provide care to a domestic or feral animal.
- Use of cage traps as authorized by the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish rules to abate damages caused by any animal to property, crops, or farmed animals.
- Scientific research that is not conducted for commercial gain from the sale of animal parts, and which is authorized by the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish.
- Enrolled members of a federally-recognized Indigenous Nation, Tribe, or Pueblo when trapping is conducted solely for religious or ceremonial purposes.

BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR TRAPS, SNARES, AND POISONS!

ALL of these common types of traps, snares, and poisons ARE ILLEGAL on public lands unless they fit under an exception. Remember that out in the field, these traps may be hidden under leaves, sticks, sand or other camouflage (to make them difficult to spot) or baited with food or scent lures (to make them attractive to animals).



Leghold trap: a spring-actuated device, either padded or unpadded, designed to capture an animal by the foot, leg, or other limb. This includes steel-jawed leghold traps, padded-jaw leghold traps, foot-hold traps, egg traps, duffer's traps, "dog proof" cylindrical or rectangular shaped foot-hold traps, and all other similar traps.



Body-gripping trap: a rotating jaw trap designed to capture an animal by the body that is intended to fatally crush or otherwise kill the animal. This includes conibear traps and all other similar traps.



Cage Trap: a trap that captures a live animal but does not grip an animal's body or body part and is not intended to kill the animal. This includes live traps, cage or box traps, colony traps, net and suitcase-type live beaver traps, but does not include a corral.



Snare: a wire or cable with single closing device, often with a noose, with or without stops, that is used to capture, strangle, or otherwise entangle an animal. This does not include catch poles, leashes, or tethers used by a human to temporarily restrain or relocate an animal.



Poison: an explosive compound or deleterious substance used in a manner intended to kill wildlife. Examples of wildlife poisons are **sodium cyanide** (used in M-44 spring-powered ejector devices) which results in excruciating death within minutes, and **sodium fluoroacetate (Compound 1080)** which can take up to 9 traumatic hours of cardiac failure, respiratory arrest, and severe prolonged convulsions before eventual death.

**WHAT TO DO
IF YOU FIND A
TRAP, SNARE,
OR POISON ON
PUBLIC LAND**

- 1 Take note of the location (use your mobile phone to determine the GPS coordinates) and, if possible, take photos.** But do not remove, tamper with, or destroy the device without authorization. It is possible a device may be allowed under a Roxy's Law exception and tampering with the device would then be illegal.
- 2 Immediately report it to New Mexico Department of Game and Fish by calling Operation Game Thief at 1-800-432-4263.** They are the appropriate agency to investigate an incident, determine whether it's illegal, file criminal charges, and prosecute violations.
- 3 Call our Animal Cruelty Helpline at 1-877-5-HUMANE (1-877-548-6263) or email us at apnm.org/contact-us.** We will document the incident and work with you to contact or follow-up with the appropriate law enforcement agency.



**ANIMAL
PROTECTION
NEW MEXICO**

apnm.org

Animal Protection New Mexico is a statewide nonprofit that protects animals by creating social change resulting in the humane treatment of all animals. Our legislative arm, Animal Protection Voters, worked tirelessly over several years with other allied groups to ban traps, snares, and poisons on New Mexico's public lands. Our efforts were successful in the 2021 state legislative session, and the law passed both chambers of the New Mexico legislature. It was signed into law by Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham on April 5, 2021.