

PROHIBITS LEG-GRIPPING TRAPS

An act to prohibit the use of wildlife leg-gripping traps.

<u>A.667</u> Assembly Member Rosenthal L.	<u>S.1182</u> Senator Addabbo
Co-Sponsors: Dinowitz, Stern, Gonzalez-Rojas, Epstein, Davila, Kelle, Shimsky Multi-Sponsors: Levenberg, Simon	Co-Sponsors: Brisport
REFERRED TO: ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION, A/M Glick, Chair	REFERRED TO: ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION, Senator Harckham, Chair

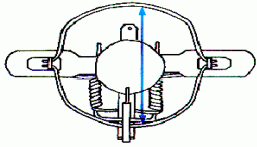


Photo: thefurbearers.com

RACKUS, THE POSTER-BOY FOR WHY LEGHOLD TRAPPING MUST STOP!

Rackus used to visit Marilyn M. for his occasional treat of fruit. One day, he arrived without his right hand that he used to pick up his piece of cantaloupe or honeydew, which he relished.

Several months later, he arrived without his left hand. Fortunately, Marilyn was able to get this photo as, sadly, it was the last time Rackus visited.

Raccoons' hands are to them what our eyes are to us. You'll learn many facts about raccoons' dependence on their hands at this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w2KaLgR5nQM>



Photo © Wildlife Watch

BACKGROUND:

- From: *JAWS OF STEEL* by Thomas Eveland, a former trapper whose trap killed Haskle: *He, nor any other forest creature, could not have suspected what happened next. The leg-hold trap snapped shut on his right front leg at about mid-calf. The young raccoon threw his furry frame backwards out of pure instinct and squealed from both pain and shock. But it was too late. His fate was sealed. Haskle flailed wildly for countless minutes, stretching the chain to its four-foot length, then biting at the steel jaws that held him. At one point he bit down so hard on the steel that three of his teeth broke, one of them a large front canine. The right front leg was not really injured from the trap, but it pinched sharply. Piercing waves of pain, though, shot through his jaw from his broken teeth. Thirty minutes or so after the initial strike, Haskle sat exhausted. He had torn chunks of bark from the exposed tree roots, thrown most of the leaves from the capture area and tried dozens of times to break the chain. His squeals, grunts and snarls had faded into the blackness around him. The steel jaws had cut deeply into his calf muscle from his thrashing and his large Achilles tendon was now severed. He sat quietly now, panting and confused. An hour after it all began, Haskle's jaw was still stinging smartly, but the pain in his leg was gone. With the circulation cut off; his lower leg below the trap had become numb. He was tired and thirsty, but he could not reach the water's edge. When he stretched the chain to its maximum, he was only inches short of the brook.* (<https://www.amazon.com/Jaws-Steel-Thomas-Eveland/dp/0963076604>)
- Wildlife trapping is an activity licensed by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. The state license allows individuals to trap furbearing animals, such as beavers, raccoons, foxes and coyotes to produce fur products. Despite the availability of more humane alternatives, such as box or cage traps, many trappers still use steel leg-gripping traps, also known as foothold traps. These traps are triggered by springs once an animal steps onto the trap, quickly clamping onto their limb and holding them in place until they are discovered by the trapper. In some regions of New York State, it may be up to 48 hours before a trapper checks on a trap.
- Animals caught in leg-gripping traps are immobilized, and therefore are unable to move, eat or drink, care for their young or defend themselves from predators. In some cases, animals have even been discovered chewing off their trapped limbs in order to escape. The American Veterinary Medical Association is opposed to their use. Species other than the target species are frequently trapped, including domestic animals.

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED BILL:

- No person shall (a) set or use a trap of the leg-gripping type; (b) set a trap so that wildlife when caught is suspended; (c) use, locate or set a snare or a device consisting of a noose of any material whereby an animal may be taken.