

Hunting Predatory Animals in Eastern Oregon Described by Albert Peterson Who Did Not Learn the Facts From Books

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set should be arranged so that if an animal comes your way he must step on the trap pan. The placing of stones or twigs across the path on each side of the trap will most generally force him to step where you want him to. Scent should be placed one or two feet from the trap or even farther if animal must go to it by way of trap. One trap is a

usually used in a set, though often it is necessary to set two or three very close together to take some very shy old coyote. If two traps are used they should be set so that the pans are about ten inches apart. This distance is just a little less than the usual step of the coyote and if one trap is missed he is apt to step on the other pan. Part I, Second Part. Winter trapping I consider much different from the other three seasons. First, if in a cold country, fifty miles of trap line or two hundred traps set close together around bait stations, set and cared for in the proper manner, is all that any one man is capable of handling. The traps are to be set the same as in summer with these exceptions: they must be covered with non-freezing debris such as wood, dry horse manure, salt or other natural dry refuse. I consider, for this season, bait sets better than scent sets, preferably horse flesh. The bait should be left where animals may have access at liberty for some time previous to setting traps and should be located at an old bait station because when in previous years a coyote has been accustomed to feeding at a certain location he is less shy than when at a new place. About four traps and no more should be set around bait stations because one exposed trap defeats the purpose of the others until fresh snow falls and eliminates all signs. In trails and runways, close to bait stations, set one hundred yards away, are very appropriate sets, because when a coyote is drawn to a certain place he is more easily lured than if traps were strung over a larger area where the animals are not so apt to frequent. Then the passway sets are very effective. Some places under a rail or woven wire fence where the animals have been in the habit of passing. The coyote will never jump a fence if he can crawl under, while in his usual mode of travel. Therefore, one trap on each side of a fence, in the trail of the passway, without using either scent or bait, is one of my



A. Phimister Proctor and His Statue "The Scout"

most favorite sets. Where there is neither scent nor bait the coyote is never suspicious, consequently he is easily taken. I could mention many more good sets but think that any hunter will in nature's way find all of these, especially with the instructions of some competent inspector. Part II. Poison work, kinds, its effects and distribution. First is getting a poison which will kill soon after swallowing, not longer than ten minutes should be allowed for the deadly effect. Other Special seems to be one of the best poisons to use on predatory wild animals. I consider

poison the most effective instrument for the destruction of predatory animals during the fall and winter months. A good trap line in connection with the poison stations will add greatly to the hunter's catch because the poison works best in cold weather and the traps are best suited to hot or warm weather. After one has a good store, quick death poison, the right kind of bait, the kind which coyotes most preferably feed upon in this location is horse flesh. The station should be in an opening as large as one half mile square, free from trees, under brush and large rocks, so that when a coyote is killed he may be

easily found. A plowed field is most preferable but the larger the opening next is to select good stations, and the better. If one has confidence enough in poison to put it out, he should have confidence enough in it to know that it will kill. For instance, if you are sure that a predatory animal has taken your bait you should not give up the search if you do not find the subject at once but should continue to hunt. He may go a distance of one mile or more if his stomach contains a large amount of food because food has a great resistance to any and all poisons. Poison baits should be made up while in camp at night or other spare time. They should be made of solid pieces of tallow, two inches long, one inch wide, and 1-4 inch thick. These slits should be made lengthwise and 2 1-2 grains of powdered strychnine inserted in the center. The hole made in the slit for inserting the poison, after the poison is placed, should be filled with some grease which will easily melt when combined with the gastric juice of the stomach. After this process the baits are ready for distribution. One should go to his bait station horseback and distribute baits about the station in accordance with the coyote signs, both as to quantity and place. If twenty coyotes are visiting your station the baits should be more thickly and widely placed so that they may all have an equal chance and that the first coyote over the line will not get them all. One should never put out baits before carrion birds, such as magpies and eagles, have gone to roost in the evening as they often eat and carry off the baits thus making it troublesome for the hunter. Besides the birds are apt to drop the bait where some domestic animal, such as dogs, hogs, or chickens will pick them up. Baits should be placed on rocks or under natural debris around the station where the night snow fall will not cover them from the coyote's sight or smell. By returning to your station early in the morning after following the foregoing instructions, one may readily determine whether the baits were taken by predatory wild animals. One may eliminate the interference of carrion birds in his bait station by making ten grains of strychnine with one pint of luke warm molasses tallow. When this mixture becomes cold it should then be distributed freely about the bait station. Another method employed in the poisoning of predatory animals is to make a drag of fresh meat in a circle of about one and one half miles around your bait station, distributing poison baits in the trail of the meat at a distance of one hundred yards apart. The coyote when coming into the bait station will follow the circle for a short distance and after taking the bait will die on his way to the station or shortly after he reaches it. Baits used for this purpose would be dipped in fresh blood and all baits should be prepared and handled only with rubber gloves. This eliminates human scent and protects sores and wounds that are frequently on your hands. The last success I have ever had in the capture of a dead horse or cow was after the coyote had had free access to the carcasses, until they had eaten the flesh entirely and nothing was left but the bone and sinew. After this period they have been feeding gluttonously for the past few days and their stomach has become very much enlarged. When their food has been suddenly shut off they at once become ravenously hungry especially in severe cold weather, consequently they readily swallow a poison bait. If twenty coyotes are feeding around a station, forty or fifty baits should be scattered



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