

The Drop Trap: A Trapper's Best Friend



NEIGHBORHOODCATS



THE
COMMUNITY CATS
PODCAST



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ABOUT NACA



Mission

The National Animal Care & Control Association is committed to setting the standard of professionalism in animal welfare and public safety through training, networking, and advocacy.

Vision

NACA envisions a world in which all animal care and control professionals are respected as essential public servants and receive consistent support, resources and training allowing them to effectively and compassionately achieve the highest quality of life for the animals and citizens in the community they serve.

Values

The organizational values of National Animal Care & Control Association are:

- professionalism
- dedication
- leadership
- integrity
- innovation
- diversity
- accessibility
- compassion



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Co-Owner of Feline Minds



Honoring Our Best Friends
with Cheryl Richardson,
Author of How to Survive
the Loss of a Pet



How to Reunite Pets and Owners with Corinne Bourgoin,
Operations Coordinator, MSPCA
Boston Adoption Center



Same Team with Sterling
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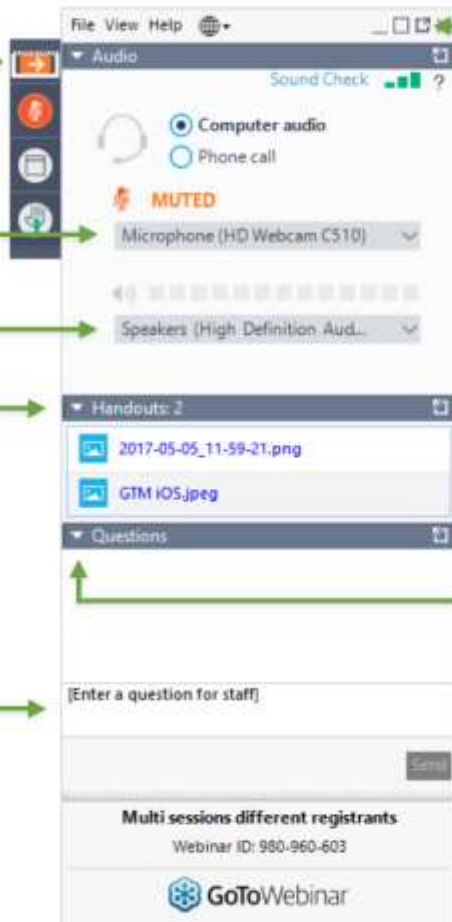
Click the dropdown menu and make sure it's set to the speakers or headphones you'd like to use.

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Got a Question?

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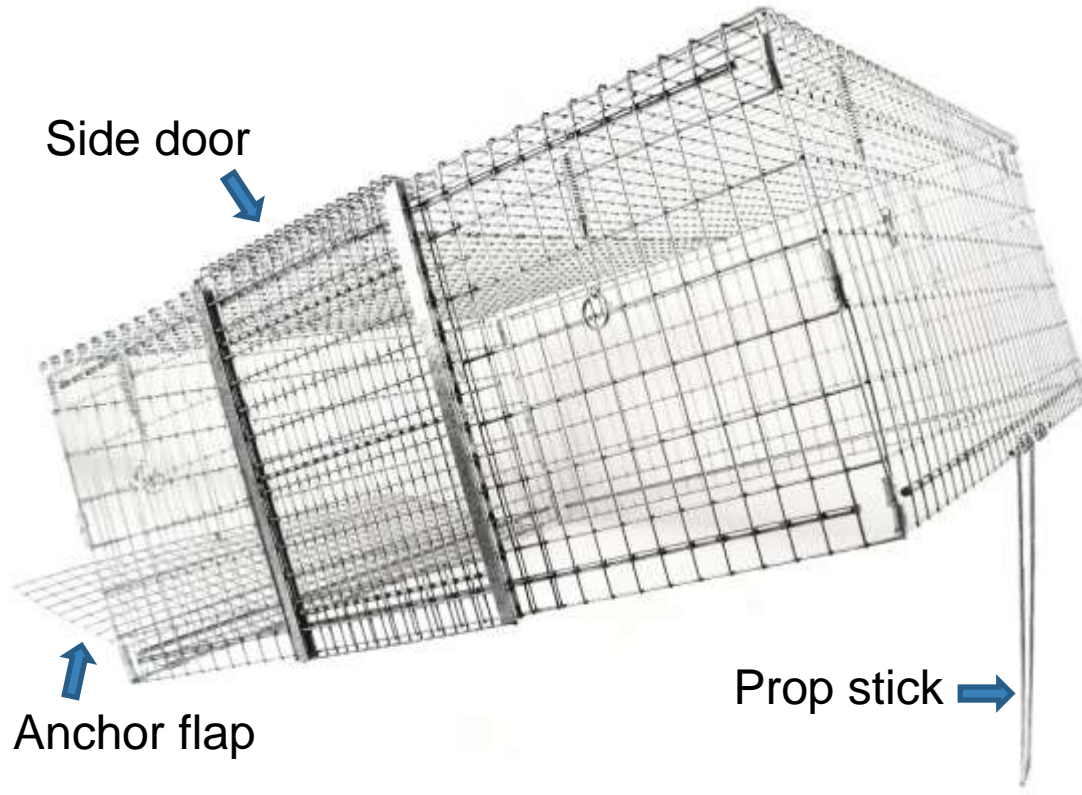
Susan Richmond
Executive Director
susan@neighborhoodcats.org



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National Programs Director
bryan@neighborhoodcats.org

What is a drop trap?





Tomahawk Live Trap Model DT1

36 in W x 36 in L x 14 in H
(91cm W x 91cm L x 36cm H)

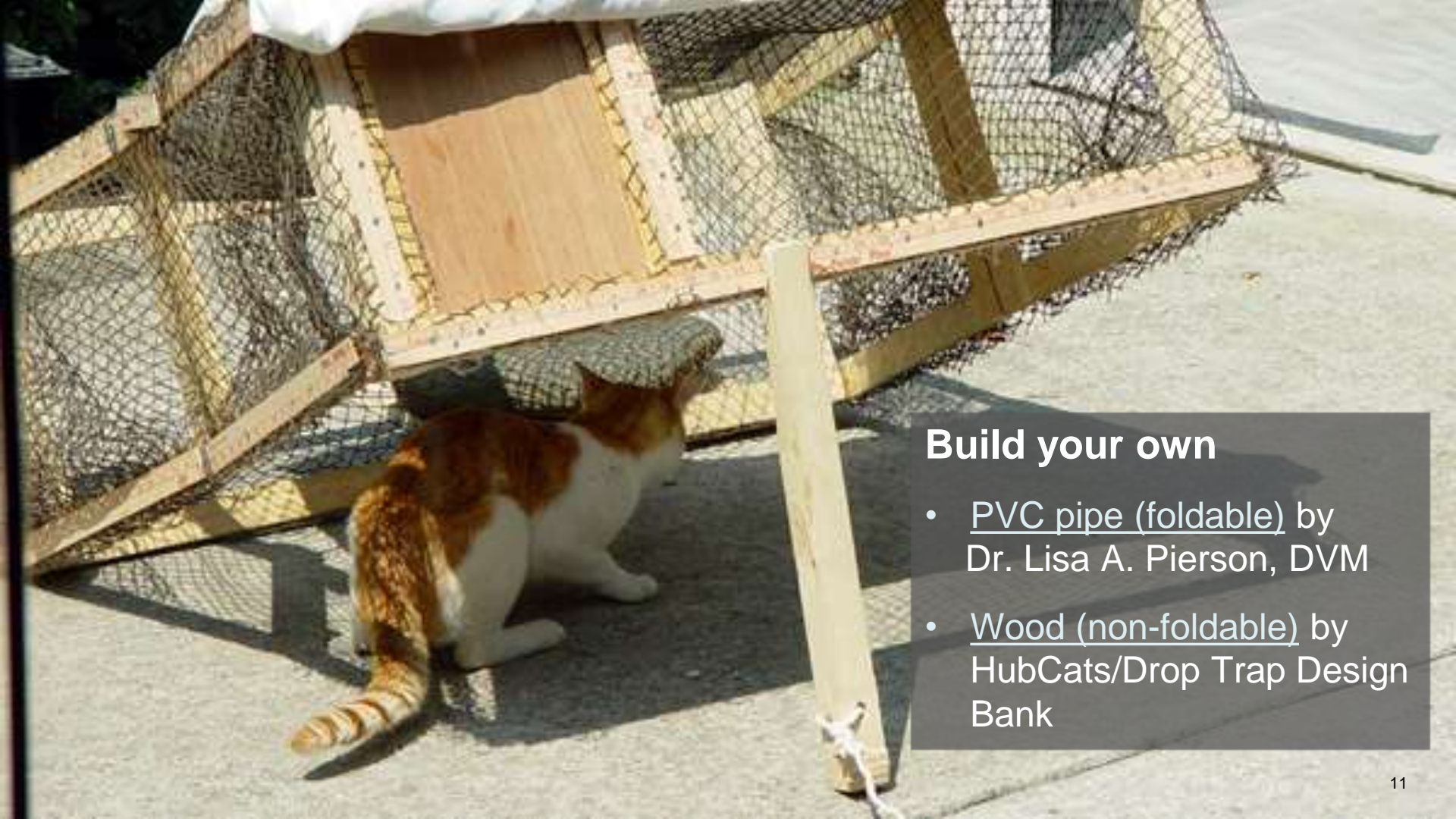
www.livetraps.com





Model DT1 = 18 lb (8.2 kg) / 36"

Model DT2 = 26 lb (11.8 kg) / 48"



Build your own

- PVC pipe (foldable) by Dr. Lisa A. Pierson, DVM
- Wood (non-foldable) by HubCats/Drop Trap Design Bank

A photograph of a grey tabby cat sitting on the ground next to a wire drop trap. The trap is made of metal mesh and has a white cloth draped over its top. The cat is looking directly at the camera. The background consists of dense green foliage, likely a cedar or juniper bush. The ground is covered with grass and some small green plants.

Drop trap vs. box trap

- Cats are much less wary of going under a drop trap than into a box trap
- Don't need to be as hungry

Uses

- Targeted trapping (pregnant, mom & kittens, injured, last intact cats in colony, newcomers)
- Cats who just won't go in a box trap
- Catching a large number at start of a mass trapping
- Finishing up a mass trapping
- Replace box traps



[VIDEO]
Drop Trap Set Up
and Tear Down







Practice!

Don't use for the first time on the cat you've been after for 5 years

Practice both the drop and the transfer

Try on a cat already fixed or even your pet cat (then give him a big treat!)



Preparations

- Feeding pattern (same time/place daily)
- Withhold food (at least same day, preferably 24 hrs)

Scout the location

- Good visibility
- Flat surface (unless you have a drop trap pad)
- In or near the feeding area
- Enough space to the side for a box trap or transfer cage
- Enough perimeter space so cat can't push the trap over an edge (like a curb or porch) and create an opening





Equipment list

- String or cord (min. 50 ft, strong)
- Heavy object (for anchor weight)
- Blanket or large sheet (blanket is better)
- Large plastic, non-breakable bowl
- Bait (lots of it!)
- Box traps with guillotine-style rear doors or transfer cages (one per cat)
- Sheets (for covering box traps)
- Trap dividers
- (Optional) binoculars
- (Optional but very helpful) 2nd person



Baiting the trap

- Targeted trapping = large bowl or dish generously filled (*Tip - use a familiar bowl/dish*)
- Non-breakable container
- Try enticing bait (tuna, sardines, roasted chicken) or the cats' regular food
- Center bowl/dish along back of trap
- *Lightly* sprinkle a bait trail to draw the cats in



Last steps

- Position box trap/transfer cage and sheet within close reach of drop trap
- Move far enough away
- Have blanket by your side
- Hold the string taut
- Be patient!



Too soon



Now!





Cover quickly



The transfer

- Line up the rear door of the box trap with the side door of the drop trap
- Double check the front door of the box trap is closed (esp. if the trap was set)





The transfer (cont'd)

- Cover the sides of the box trap with a sheet, leaving the end furthest from the drop trap uncovered.
- Trying to create the illusion of a way out if the cat enters the box trap. The more of the drop trap and box trap you keep covered, the stronger the illusion.
- Raise the drop trap side door and box trap rear door.
- Wait and try to stay out of the cat's line of sight.





- Shut and lock the box trap rear door. Shut the drop trap side door if there's more than one cat in the drop trap.
- Disengage the spring clips from the box trap.
- Fully cover the box trap.
- Repeat the transfer process if there are more cats.



Won't go in?

- Slowly pull cover off drop trap, towards box trap
- 2nd person bends down, stares into drop trap from side opposite side door
- Spray bottle with water or move object like a stick towards the cat (don't touch!)
- Corral towards side door with drop trap dividers
- Wait – he'll go eventually.





Drop trap dividers
(Model DT-TD)

Tomahawk Live Trap

Farley the Feral



**You're about to pull
- what's wrong?**



What's wrong?



The one that got away!



About to pull -
anything wrong?







**We're on a break -
back soon with Cat Trivia!**



CAT TRIVIA!





Using a familiar bowl



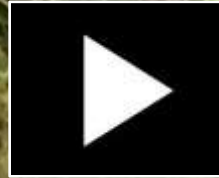




Blowin' in the wind



The stubborn caretaker



Mom & kittens





Uneven ground

Drop trap pad

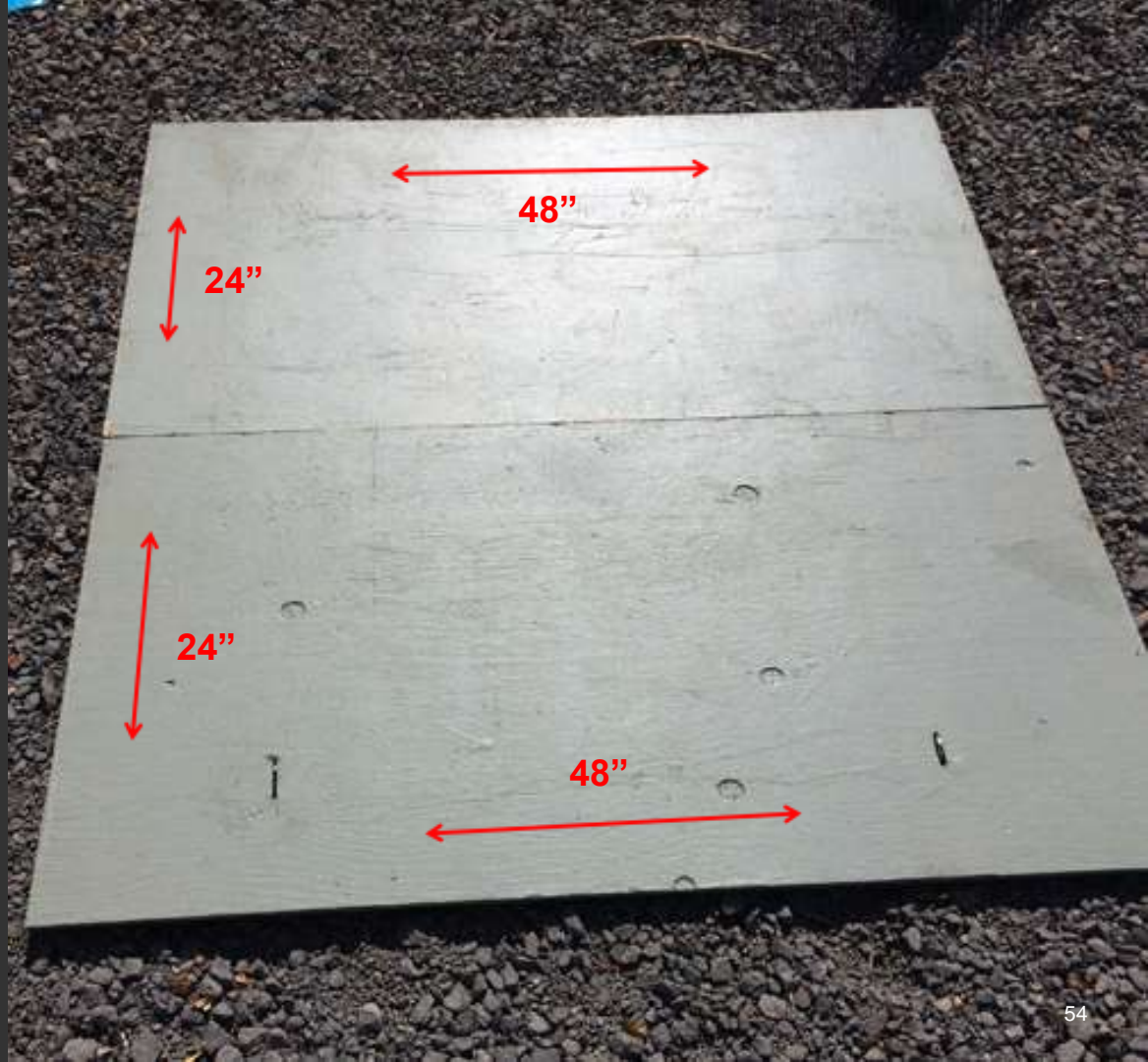






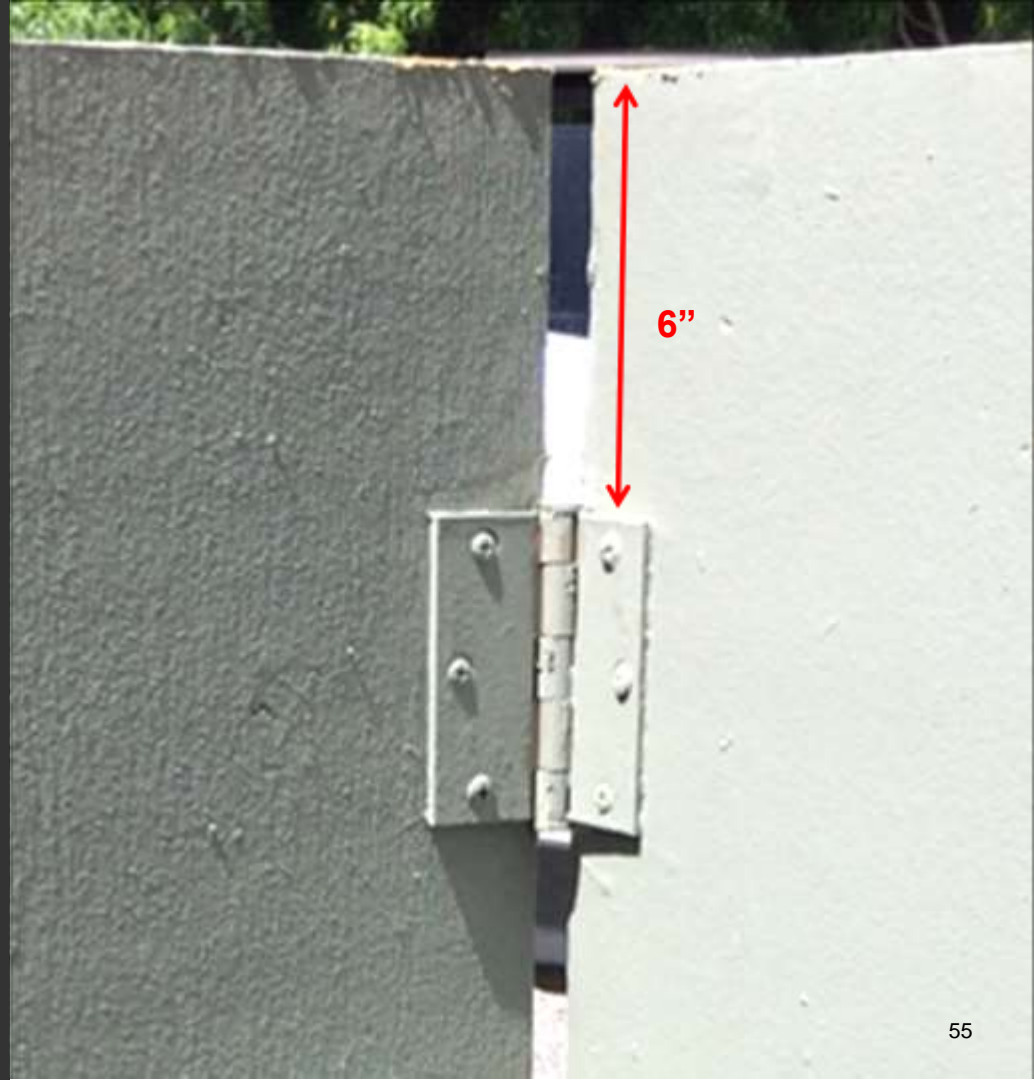
Materials

- Two panels, 24" x 48" each, of ½" plywood
- Two 3½" door hinges
- Cable ties
- Deck paint (neutral color)

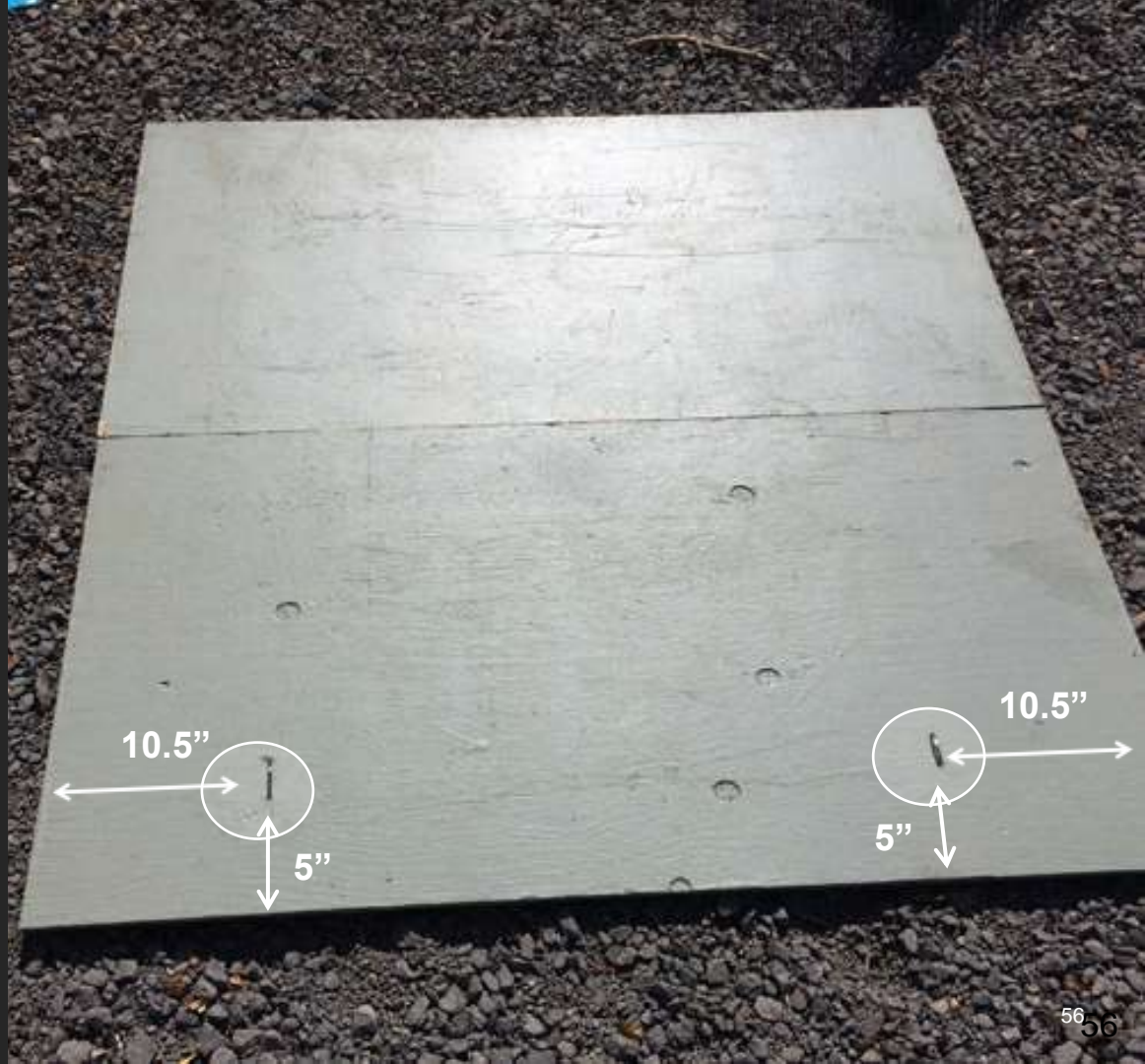


Construction

- Attach the two panels with door hinges 6" from edge. Side with hinges will be the bottom of the pad.
- Paint wood and hinges



- In each back corner of one panel, drill a pair of holes 1" apart and large enough for the cable ties to fit through
- Create loops by attaching one cable tie through each set of holes.



- Fold up the anchor flap and attach to side of drop trap with a clip
- Attach the drop trap to the pad by running a cable tie through each back corner loop and through the back of the drop trap. Attach loosely! (Trap should drop freely after being attached to the pad.)



Soft ground



Night-time trapping

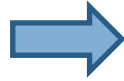




Tru-Catch 30LTD




Tomahawk GT606

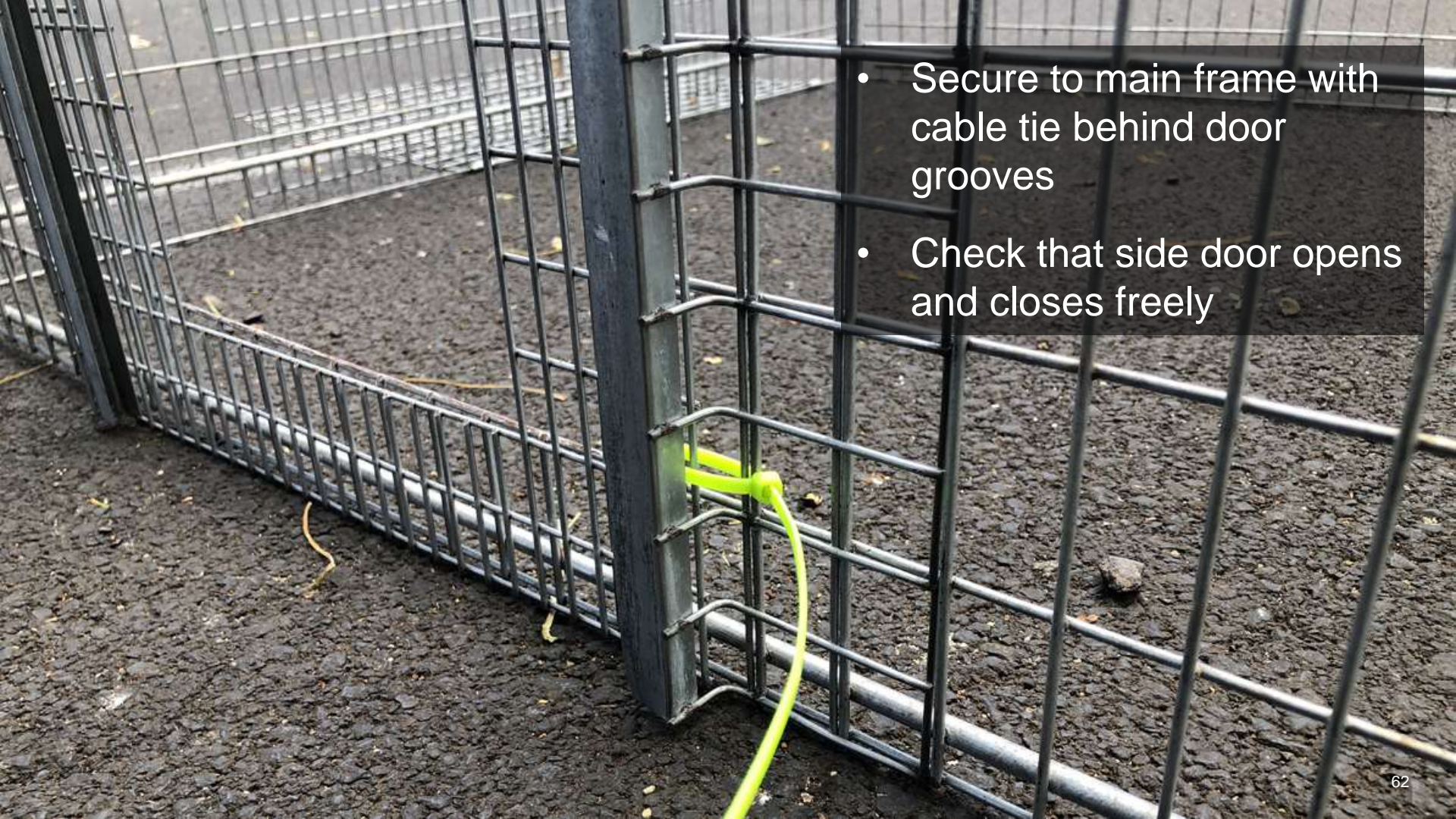


Tomahawk DT-1

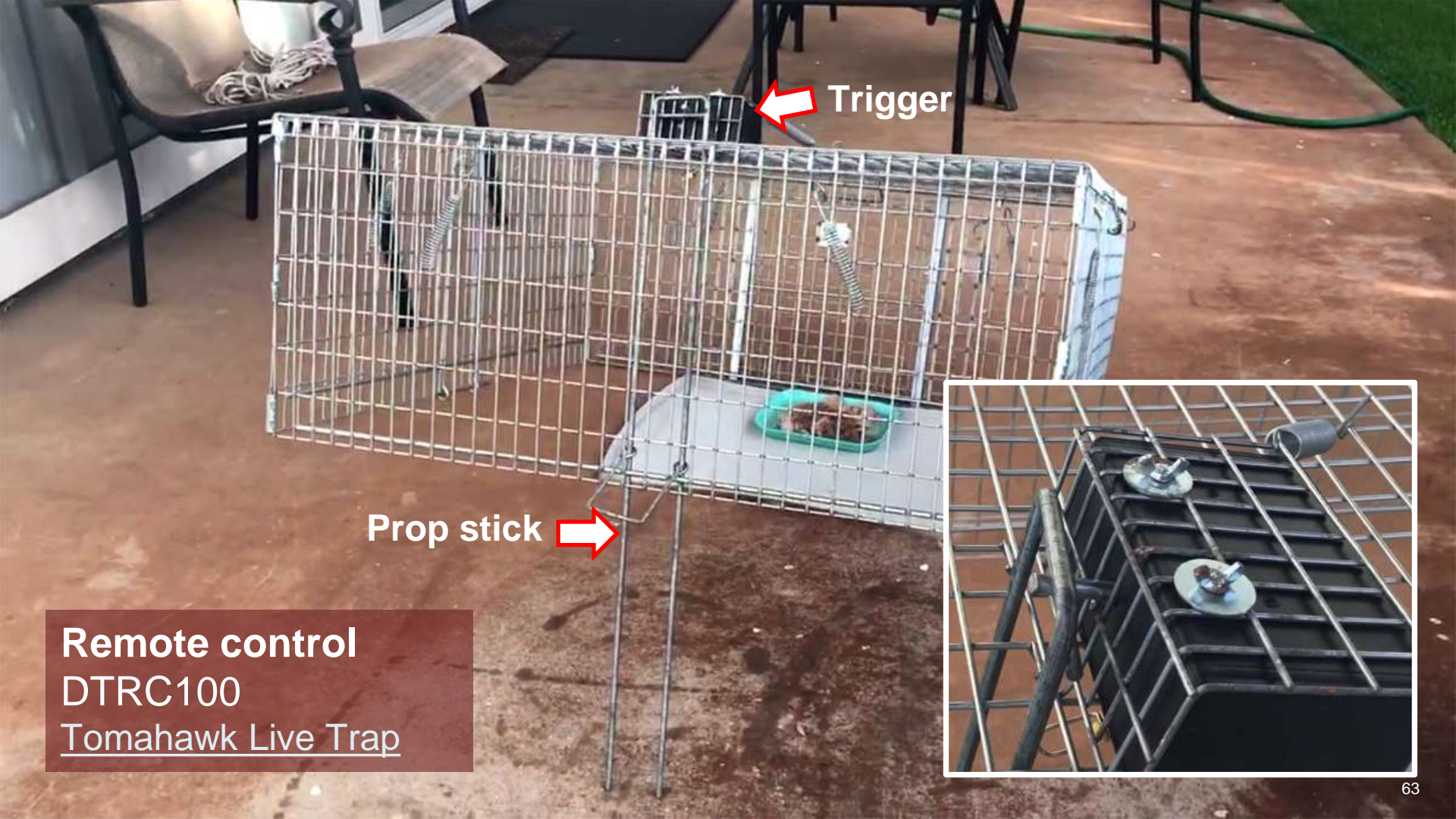
**Drop Trap Transfer
Opening Reducer (DT-DOR)**
[Tomahawk Live Trap](#)

A close-up photograph showing a person's hand inserting a rectangular metal mesh panel into a larger wire cage. The hand is positioned at the top left, with the thumb and index finger gripping the top edge of the panel. The panel is being slid into a groove between the top horizontal bars of the cage. The cage is made of silver-colored metal wire. The background is a dark, textured surface, possibly asphalt or concrete, with some small debris. A semi-transparent black text box is overlaid in the upper right corner.

Insert behind door grooves



- Secure to main frame with cable tie behind door grooves
- Check that side door opens and closes freely



Trigger

Prop stick

Remote control
DTRC100
Tomahawk Live Trap







Remote control – side door
Need side door bracket DTRDB2
Tomahawk Live Trap



Day 2
Cats: 0 Total: 0



**Mass drop trapping -
Cluster eating**













Fence



Slope →



Rock/debris pile

Fence

Feeding area

Cats

Cats

Cats

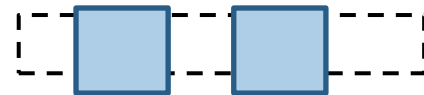
Slope

Rock/debris pile

Fence



Trappers (2)



Drop traps on pads (2)



Spotter

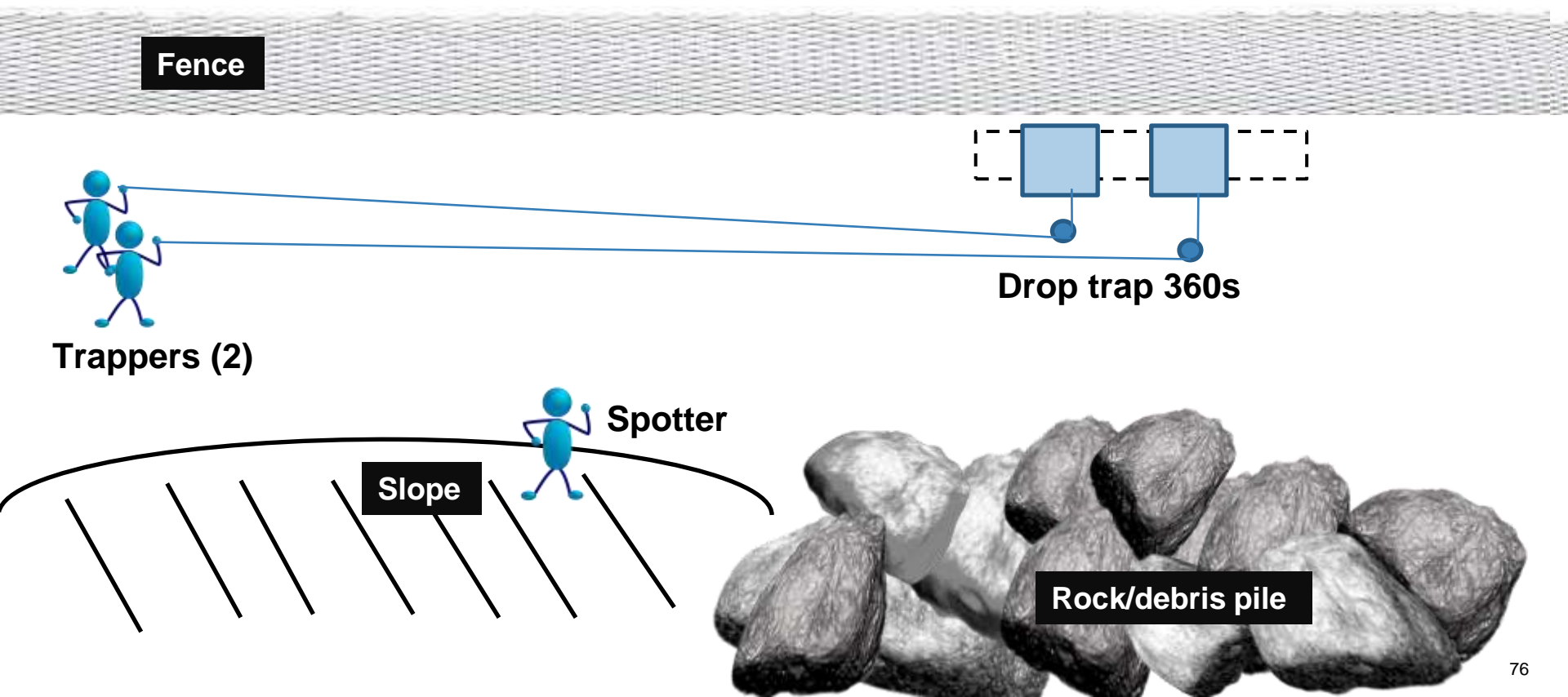
Slope



Rock/debris pile

Drop trap 360







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Sat, July 8, 2 to 4:30pm ET
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Colony Caretaking: Tips & Tricks

Sat, September 16, 2 to 4pm ET

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MOST BANG FOR YOUR BUCK
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Questions?