



# WILD ANIMALS AND GLUE TRAPS

The RSPCA is opposed to the manufacture, sale and use of all glue traps because they cause **unacceptable suffering**.



## Glue traps are cruel and indiscriminate

Also known as glue boards or sticky boards, glue traps consist either of a sheet of cardboard, plastic or wood coated with non-drying adhesive or a shallow tray of the adhesive.

### These traps have major animal welfare costs:

- When animals cross the board they become stuck by their feet. Unable to free themselves, other parts of their body then become stuck, further entrapping them. In attempting to get free they may rip out patches of fur, break bones and even gnaw through their own limbs to escape.
- After three to five hours animals have been reported as covered in their own faeces and urine. However, trapped animals may be left for much longer periods than that, during which time they will experience pain, distress and unacceptable suffering. If trapped animals are left unattended they will die slowly from dehydration, starvation or exhaustion.
- Professional operators should be able to humanely despatch the animal, but others may not be able to do so and animals may be left to suffer or be killed by inhumane methods.

»» Any animal caught in a glue trap is considered 'under the control of man' and as such the **Animal Welfare Act 2006** may apply. The extent to which it applies, and whether an offence is committed, will depend on the situation.



A **Code of Practice** has been produced, relating to the correct use of glue traps. However, despite the code stating that **distributors should not supply to persons who are not trained or competent**, these traps are openly available to the general public through hardware stores, garden centres and other retailers – illustrating the limited effectiveness of the code and the threat to animal welfare posed by this kind of trap.

Injured animals will require treatment from the nearest vet or wildlife centre – for information on RSPCA wildlife centres, check out [www.rspca.org.uk/wildlife](http://www.rspca.org.uk/wildlife) or call us for advice on **0300 1234 999**.

## Let us know...

If you have seen glue traps being sold, please forward the following information to [wildlife@rspca.org.uk](mailto:wildlife@rspca.org.uk):

- **Name and address** of the store where the traps are being sold (include postcode where possible).
- The name of the **manager or owner** of the store concerned (if known) and the address if different to above.
- The **date** you saw the traps on sale.

We will then write to the retailer and ask them to stop selling glue traps, remove all glue traps from their stock and avoid re-stocking them in the future – to prevent the problem reoccurring.

»» To report live animals caught in glue traps, please contact the RSPCA's 24-hour cruelty and advice helpline on **0300 1234 999**.

Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

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