

# KC71 Squirrel / Mink Trap

The Squirrel/Mink trap is a live-catch trap for the control of grey squirrels (*Sciurus carolinensis*) and Mink (*Mustela vison*). A treadle-operated device with a unique door "pull wire" for setting and releasing, the trap is designed to capture the animal unharmed. The Animal Welfare Act 2006 and the BASC code of practice 'Trapping Pest Mammals' must be consulted prior to trapping.

## SETTING THE TRAP

- Place the trap on the ground with the carrying handle uppermost.
- Pull on the wire rope, which protrudes through the cage top. This will automatically open one door.
- If no rope is present, push on the door with one hand whilst working up the spring closing bar behind the door with the other, until the door can be fully opened.
- Holding the door open, lift the treadle slightly. This will move the connecting bar under the door lip. The sensitivity can be altered depending on how far in from the door lip the end of the connecting bar sits. The closer to the edge of the lip; the more sensitive the setting. The trap is now set.
- After positioning the trap (see below), adjust the sensitivity to suit. Be careful not to trigger the treadle when your fingers are in the door aperture, as this can have painful consequences!

## PLACING THE TRAP

- It pays to spend some time observing the animal's movement patterns. This is especially important if you know where they are feeding.
- Carefully place the trap on the ground as close as possible to areas that the animal frequents. Set or adjust the trap as described above. Remove any debris that could interfere with the trap's action.
- Bait the trap accordingly. Squirrels readily take corn, maize, peanuts (unsalted) and seed, whilst mink prefer fish or fish heads or cat food. Baits should be placed to entice the animal inside - a little just outside the trap doors, a little more just inside and a slightly larger amount each side of the treadle. Make sure that the bait does not prevent the treadle from moving fully.
- The unique door "pull wire" makes the removal of the specimen a quick and thus less hazardous procedure.
- Check trap at least daily.

## TIPS OF THE TRADE

When the traps are new, leave them outside for a few days to 'weather' - this removes any new or human smells. As both species are very wary, it often pays to camouflage the trap with natural materials lying nearby, such as grass, twigs or leaves. Remember that under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981, it is illegal to release these animals once captured. They should be humanely dispatched and removed.

