



How to Trap an Armadillo

A unique animal with a voracious appetite for insects, grubs and earthworms. The trouble is due to this virtually insatiable appetite for garden dwelling insects and slithering invertebrates, they have the ability and indeed do destroy many newly planted and established garden or that well cared for lawn you're so proud of. This generally makes people unhappy, and genuinely upset with these unusual creatures. Follow these steps to safely and humanly trap a pesky armadillo for relocation.

Steps

- 1 Decide which method you will employ.** There are really only two methods of live capture, and unless you want to stay up very late or get up very early to try to capture the varmint with a net, you'll probably choose method 2. Method 2 involves letting a live trap do the dirty work for you.
- 2 Choose a live trap.** Now that you have decided on the easiest (but very possibly not permanent) method of capture you'll need a trap. You could buy one or make your own. Choices for factory produced traps include Havahart and Advantek.
- 3 Locate a burrow entrance.** Find an entrance that looks like it has been used recently.
- 4 Locate the best spot to place the trap.** Look for signs that reveal the normal path that the armadillo uses for egress and ingress into that particular burrow entrance.
- 5 Set the trap.** Place the trap 6–8 feet (1.8–2.4 m) from the opening parallel with the path you identified in the last step.
- 6 Provide a funneling path that forces the animal to move toward the trap.** Using scrap plywood, 2x4's, garden fencing or whatever else you may have on hand, create a funnel. Starting with the widest point of the funnel at the opening of the burrow making an unbroken funnel culminating at the opening of the trap being the same width as the trap opening.
- 7 Bait the trap.** Earthworms are best as other types of bait may attract other unwanted animals like raccoons, and cats. Place some earthworms in some hosiery, making a small sack of bait. The hosiery will hold the bait and allow the smell to permeate the air in hopes of attracting our pesky garden wrecker. Actually the bait may be a more of symbolic gesture as an armadillo's sight is not very good and your funnel will lead him right to the trap.
- 8 Relax and let your expertly set trap perform its magic.**

Tips

- The use of mothballs has been proven to be a deterrent. Place some mothballs in the most sensitive areas.
- Pine straw has also been known to act as a deterrent to armadillos, use the same as you would the mothballs.
- Once the animal has been relocated it would be advisable to install a perimeter fence, extending the fence to 1 foot (0.3 m) below existing ground level.

Warnings

- By removing one armadillo you may be opening up the area to a competing armadillo.
- If you build your own trap, make sure it is very sturdy. Armadillos have very powerful legs and large claws and will do everything it can to get free.

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