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NEW LEAFLET TELLS HOW
TO MAKE A CAT TRAP

Vagrant, unowned house cats are a serious menace to song birds, insectivorous birds, and game birds, to rabbits, squirrels, and other small forms of beneficial wild life, and to poultry, and therefore they should be destroyed, says a leaflet just issued by the U. S. Department of Agriculture on how to make a cat trap.

Stray cats--usually hungry, mangy, and diseased--abound in every city, town, and rural community, and are the most common carnivorous mammals in many places far removed from human habitation, says the leaflet. Usually they have been left unfed by their owners and are forced to get a precarious living by hunting and scavenging. As they are abroad mainly at night they are seldom seen and it is not generally realized that they are as numerous as they actually are. The leaflet says that in 18 months more than 50 stray cats were caught in one trap set in only two locations in a city, and that in one city a humane society put to death nearly a million vagrant cats in four years.

Stray cats can be caught in any well-constructed and baited trap. The one described in the new leaflet, devised by the Bureau of Biological Survey, has proved satisfactory and is easily made. It is merely a box with a drop door that is held up by a projecting wire one end of which is attached to a false floor or treadle. The weight of the cat on the treadle beyond the fulcrum pulls back the wire and releases the door. The leaflet shows, by picture and text, how to make the trap, and it also tells how to bait the trap and how to dispose of the captured cats.

The Leaflet, No. 50-L, "How to Make a Cat Trap," can be obtained free from the Office of Information, Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., as long as copies are available for free distribution.

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The circular discusses the control of warble and nose flies, the prevention and control of range fires, and the establishment of a brand registry system.

Combination of herds under one management is recommended for closely adjoining areas, where it is difficult to maintain herds separately because of lack of natural barriers. The use of better corrals and chutes in handling herds at round-ups for marking, castration, and separating; eliminating roping as much as possible; elimination from the herds of scrub stock, barren does, and white and spotted animals of the lighter shades; butchering by humane methods at the right time of year; and use of sled and pack reindeer in handling the herd, are some of the recommendations offered. Use of the range is discussed, and the need for giving careful attention to the use and protection of lichen areas, is emphasized.

Damage to lichen range from fire is particularly serious, as it may take a burned-over lichen area as long as 25 years to recover, and if the area is so badly burned as to destroy the cover of humus, the changed site conditions may result in a growth of inferior species or in permanent absence of lichens as far as practical grazing use is concerned.

The circular, "Improved Reindeer Handling," No. 82-C, may be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C., at 5 cents a copy.

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