

The Victor Coyote Stoploss Study

On May 22, 1946, John Lehn, of the Animal Trap Company of America arrived in Cotulla, Texas to test the strength of the guard on the new Coyote Stoploss. He was also testing the #3 N Victor, the #2 Fox Coil Spring with a special short chain fastened in the center of the bottom and some #3 Victors with large spread jaws with teeth to catch coyotes by the head.

There was heavy rain there on May 20, 25 and 29. They had issue with wet ground with rain every three or four days. They started trapping on May 24 and stopped on June 29.

There were five catches in the Coyote Stoploss with no escapes. The catches were bruised very little.

There were two catches in the 3 N Victor with one escape. The long chain was wrapped over the trap during the one catch, locking trap and swivel. Lehn shot the coyote a few seconds before it could escape.

The skin and flesh were cut bad on a few of the eight catches in the #2 Fox Special. The head trap had no catches with two pulling out. One was caught by the head and one was caught by a front foot.

It was impossible for Lehn to correctly report the number of traps sprung by coyotes. Cattle sprung many and, in some cases, he could see coyote, horse and cattle tracks at a sprung trap. Many of the sets were damaged by rain at different times. A few traps were sprung with 1 1/2 inches of wet ground on them. With the material on them, they were too slow to catch anything.

Lehn said it was difficult to make a fair comparison test for catches in a short time based on the number of traps and different styles used. One day they caught three coyotes and all were caught in the #2 Fox Special with no coyote tracks near the other trap types. The same bait was used at all the sets.

There were no complaints of coyotes killing any stock during the trip. The coyotes eat many different kinds of berries when ripe. The coyotes cannot endure the high temperatures in the sun, so they travel little that time of year compared to winter months.

He said that the malleable swivels locked frequently with rust and alkali soil. He thought this was serious and should be studied.

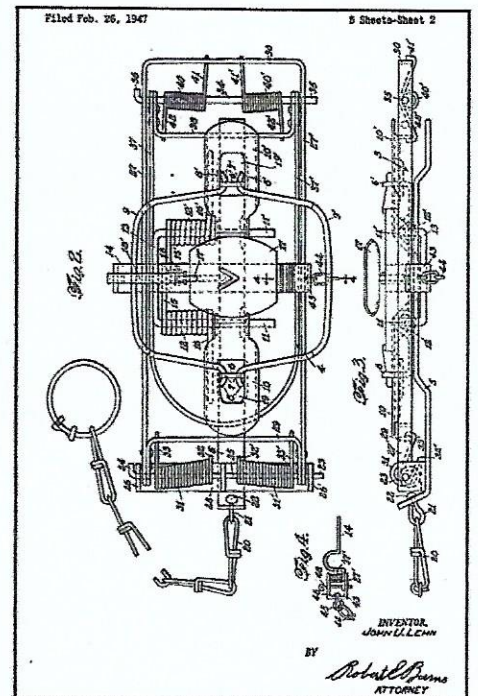
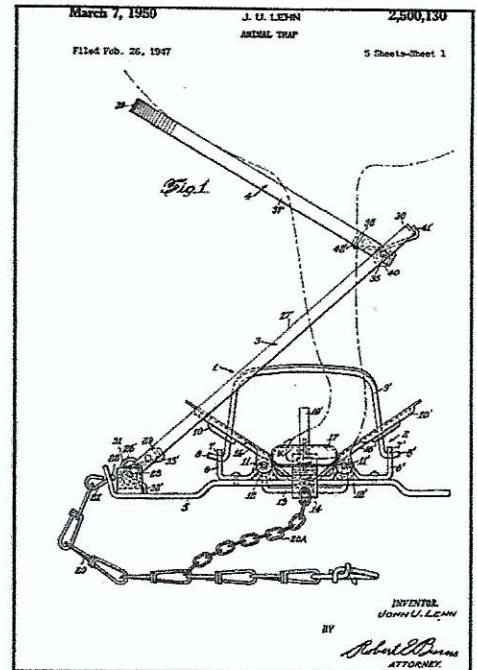
Lehn provided the following opinion of the Coyote Stoploss. He thought the combination of a short chain fastened at the center of the bottom of a trap with offset jaws, using a stake for an anchor, plus the compound guard offered the most holding power. He thought it was the most humane and was by far the most practical trap to date.

Lehn provided a copy of his report to Graybill, Woolworth and Boone at ATC. Lehn applied for a patent on the Coyote Stoploss on February 26, 1947 and was awarded the patent on March 7, 1950.

Submitted by:

**Scot Dahms
Wilmington, OH**

Pat # 2,500,130 March 7, 1950
filed for pat Feb, 1947 by John
Lehn of Animal Trap Co. PA



1946 Texas coyote stoploss report ↓

Inspection	If for report use initials below	Referred for attention or filing	Dead File		LIVE FILE			Return to
			G. T.	Don.	Month	Day	Year	
			M. & R.	Exp.				
			Trapper	Deputy				

The following is a brief report of the work done in Texas.

Arrived in Dallas, Texas May 24, 1946 to test the strength of the guard on the new traps over long term. Also had along for testing some J. E. Hester, of the Bell County with special short chain fastened in the center of the bottom and some of Victor with traps tested from with death to catch coyotes by the head.

There was a heavy rain here on May 27, and again on the 28th and the 29th. For a few weeks we were troubled with wet grounds with rain every three or four days. It started freezing on the 24th and stopped June 26th.

WINTER CITY TRAP

October	Trap Set	Traps Killed Coy	Remarks
5	0	2	These catches were brought very little.

W. S. HESTER

October	Trap Set	Traps Killed Coy	Remarks
2	1	1	1946 chain was removed from trap, looking trap and animal. First coyote in the country before he could escape.

DR. JIM SPURDIN (WYATT)

October	Trap Set	Traps Killed Coy	Remarks
5	0	1	Skinn and flesh was not bad on a few of these catches.

HEAD TRAP

October	Trap Set	Traps Killed Coy	Remarks
2	0	0	Two killed each, one was caught by the head, and one was caught by front feet.

It is impossible to report accurately the number of traps sprung by coyotes. While spring may not in some cases we could detect coyotes, horse and cattle tracks at a spring trap. Many of the sets were damaged by rain at all frequent times. A few traps were sprung that had 12 inches of wet ground under them, causing them to be too close to catch.

It is difficult to make a fair comparison test for catches in a short time with a number of traps of different styles. One day we caught three coyotes and all were caught in the middle for traps and on several traps near the other sides of traps. At this time we were using the same bait on all sets.

I heard no complaints of coyotes killing any stock during this trip. They set and live on many different kinds of horses when they, and have under available most anywhere. They expect on the high temperatures in the sun, so they travel little this time of the year compared to the winter months.



Coyote shown in described trap above.



Another Coyote shown in described trap above.



The described Trap in left hand of person on right in above photo.

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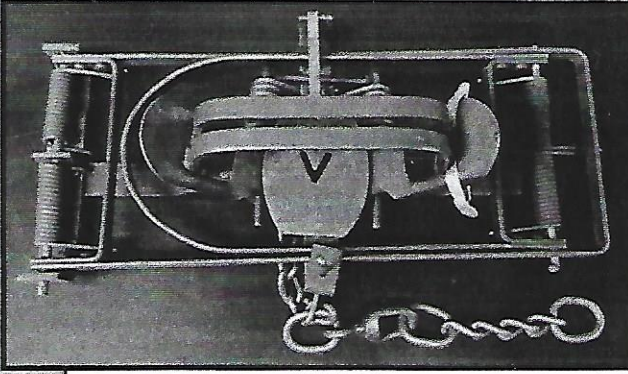
The metallic articles look frequently with rust and slight soil. Skin is rotten and should be avoided.

In my opinion the construction of a short chain fastened at the center of the bottom of a trap with all set jaws and under a wire for a anchor, plus the compound guard offers the most in holding power, the most humane and is by far the most practical trap to date.

Reported by,

John W. Lutz
et

Copy to: Mr. E. E. Graybill
Mr. C. E. Woodworth
Mr. E. T. Brown



Actual trap shown in article—Gerstell collection.