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[54] **HUMANE ANIMAL TRAP**

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[51] **Int. Cl.**[4] **A01M 23/26**

[52] **U.S. Cl.** **43/88**; 43/93; 43/94

[58] **Field of Search** 43/88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 43/93, 94, 95

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Primary Examiner—Kurt Rowan
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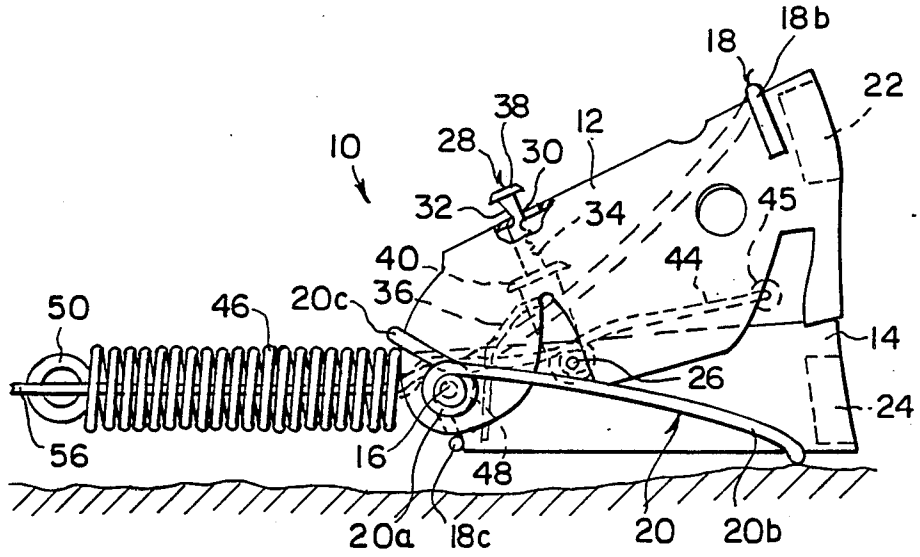
[57] **ABSTRACT**

A humane animal trap is provided and includes a pair of cushions which can be scented for attracting an animal that are removably attached to inner faces of the trap jaws to prevent injury to jaws of the animal when closed upon the same. A spoon shaped bait-receiving member is also provided so that liquid bait or a solid bait can be used for attracting the animal to trigger the trap.

3 Claims, 2 Drawing Sheets



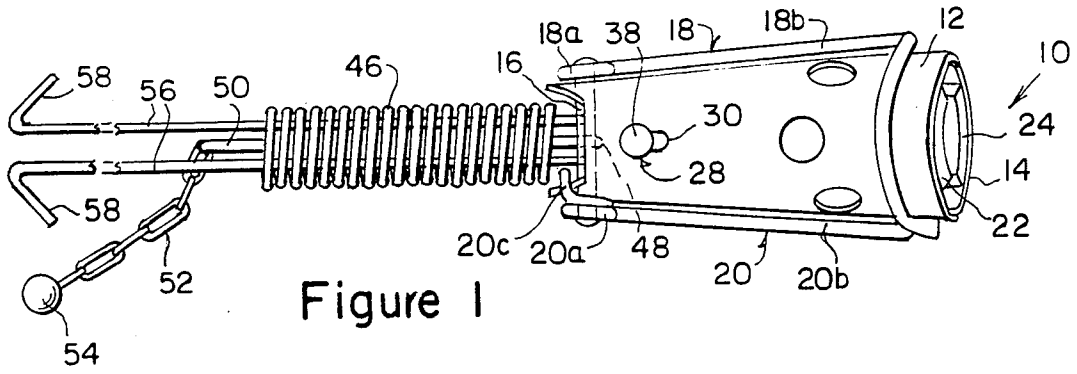


Figure 1

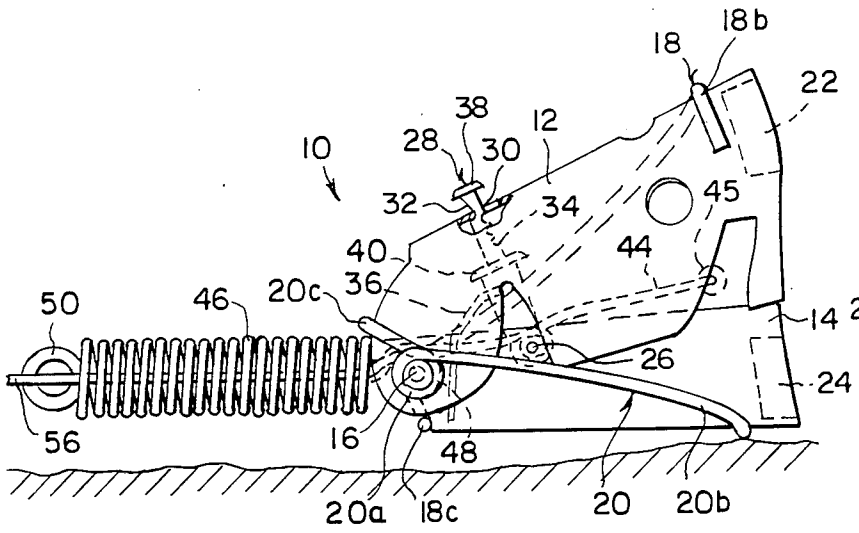


Figure 2

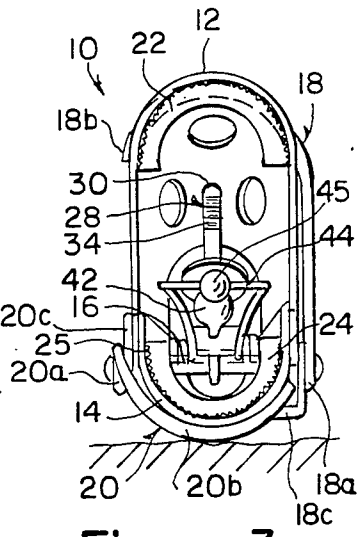


Figure 3

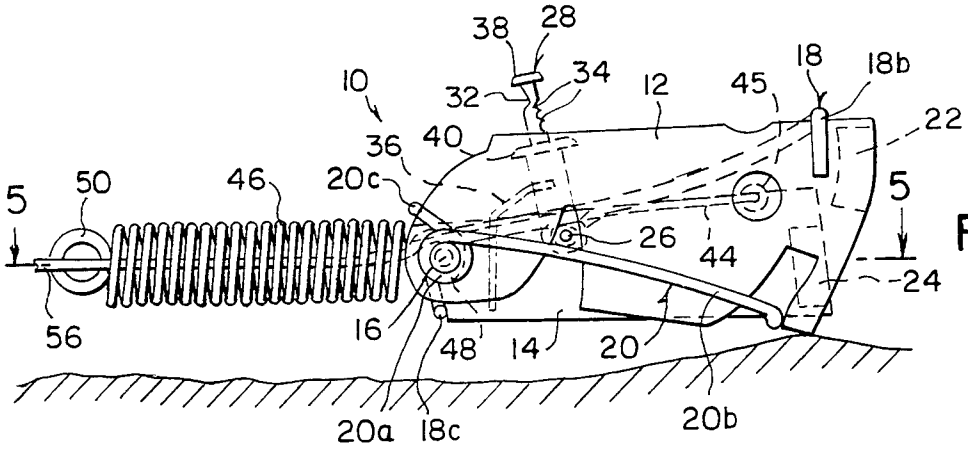
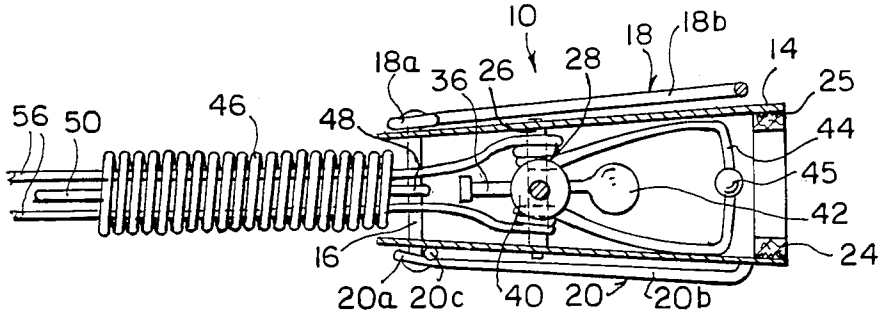


Figure 4



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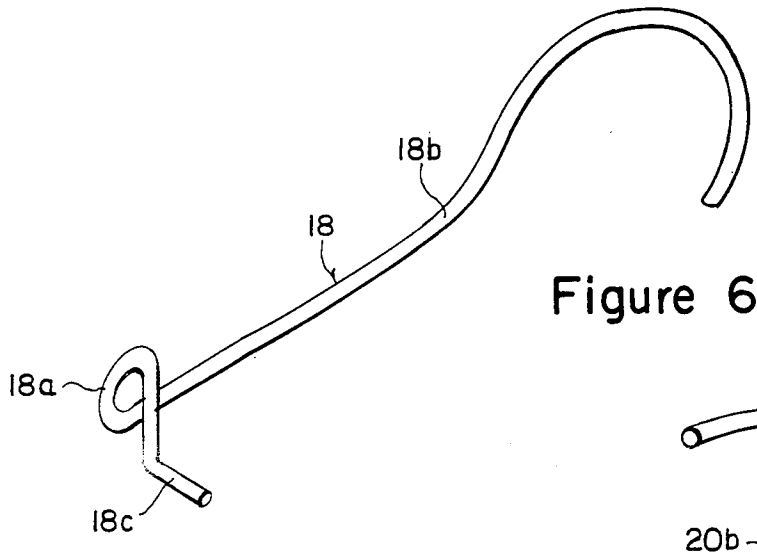

Figure 6

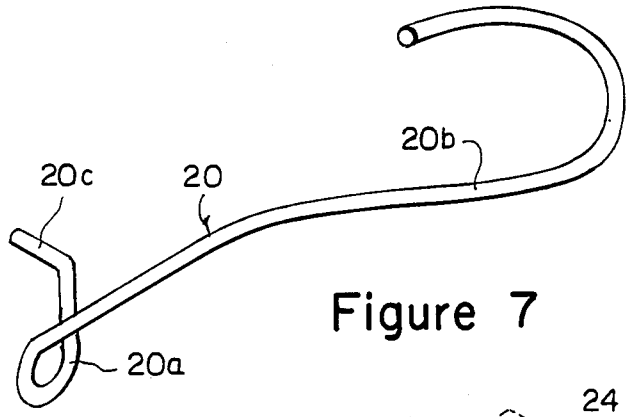

Figure 7

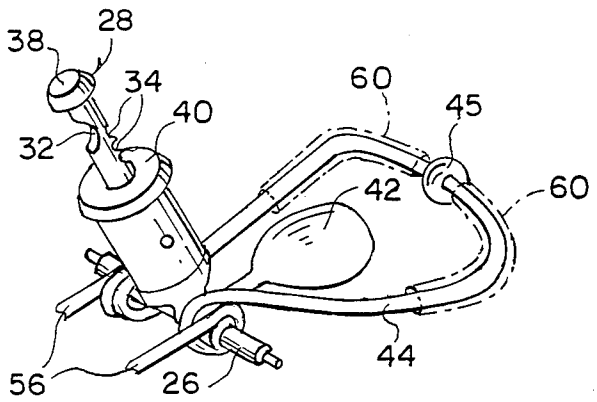

Figure 8

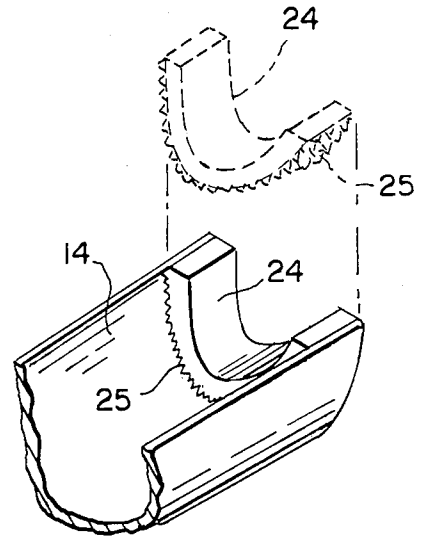

Figure 9

HUMANE ANIMAL TRAP

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

The instant invention relates generally to animal traps and more specifically it relates to a humane animal trap.

2. Description of the Prior Art

Numerous animal traps have been provided in prior art that are adapted to catch and in most cases injure or kill the animals. While these units may be suitable for the particular purpose to which they address, they would not be as suitable for the purposes of the present invention as heretofore described.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

A primary object of the present invention is to provide a humane animal trap that will overcome the shortcomings of the prior art devices.

Another object is to provide a humane animal trap that includes a pair of cushions which can be scented for attracting an animal that are removably attached to inner faces of the trap jaws to prevent injury to jaws of the animal when closed upon the same.

An additional object is to provide a humane animal trap that includes a spoon shaped bait-receiving member so that liquid bait or a solid bait can be used for attracting the animal to trigger the trap.

A further object is to provide a humane animal trap that is simple and easy to use.

A still further object is to provide a humane animal trap that is economical in cost to manufacture.

Further objects of the invention will appear as the description proceeds.

To the accomplishment of the above and related objects, this invention may be embodied in the form illustrated in the accompanying drawings, attention being called to the fact, however, that the drawings are illustrative only, and that changes may be made in the specific construction illustrated and described within the scope of the appended claims.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING FIGURES

FIG. **1** is a top view of the invention.

FIG. **2** is a side view showing the trap in an open position.

FIG. **3** is an end view thereof.

FIG. **4** is a side view showing the trap in a closed position.

FIG. **5** is a cross sectional view taken along line **5**—**5** in FIG. **4**.

FIG. **6** is a perspective view of the upper spring.

FIG. **7** is a perspective view of the lower spring.

FIG. **8** is a perspective view of the tripping mechanism.

FIG. **9** is a perspective view with parts broken away of the lower jaw with lower cushion therein.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Turning now descriptively to the drawings, in which similar reference characters denote similar elements throughout the several views, the figures illustrate a humane animal trap **10** consisting of a pair of trap jaws movable toward and from each other and includes an upper trap jaw **12** that has a top and side walls and a lower trap jaw **14** that has a bottom and side walls

overlapping the side walls of the upper trap jaw **14**. A first pivot pin **16** pivotally connects the trap jaws **12** and **14** together while a pair of springs **18** and **20** are disposed on the first pivot pin **16** to move the trap jaws **12** and **14** toward each other.

The upper spring **18** has a loop portion **18***a* that fits around the first pivot pin **16**, a long arm **18***b* that bears against the upper trap jaw **12** and a short L-shaped arm **18***c* that bears against the lower trap jaw **14**. The lower spring **20** has a loop portion **20***a* that fits around the first pivot pin **16**, a long arm **20***b* that bears against the lower trap jaw **14** and a short L-shaped arm **20***c* that bears against the upper trap jaw **12**.

A pair of cushions **22** and **24**, which can be scented for attracting an animal (not shown) are each removably attached by adhesive **25** or the like, to inner faces of the walls of each of the trap jaws **12** and **14** and being sufficiently smooth, soft and unobstructed to prevent injury to jaws of an animal when closed upon the same.

A second pivot pin **26** is carried by the lower trap jaw **14** while a latch arm **28** is carried by the second pivot pin **26** and extends through an opening **30** in the upper trap jaw **12**. The latch arm **28** has a notch **32** on one side thereof adapted to engage the top wall of the upper trap jaw **12** and hold the trap jaws **12** and **14** open against action of the springs **18** and **20** and a series of notches **34** on other side thereof adapted to engage the top wall of the upper trap jaw **12** to prevent opening of the trap jaws **12** and **14**. A spring **36** tends to move the series of notches **34** into engagement with the top wall of the upper trap jaw **12**.

The top of the latch arm **28** is provided with a head **38** to engage the top wall of the upper trap jaw **12** and limit the movement of the trap jaws **12** and **14** in a direction away from each other. The latch arm **28** is also provided with a shoulder **40** which is adapted to engage underside of the top wall of the upper trap jaw **12** and limit the movement of the trap jaws **12** and **14** toward each other.

A spoon shaped bait-receiving member **42** is connected to the latch arm **28**, while a generally C-shaped retaining bar **44** having a ball shaped member **45** formed thereon, is carried by the second pivot pin **26** and is located between the trap jaws **12** and **14** in advance of the spoon shaped bait-receiving member **42** and is adapted to engage and hold front teeth of the animal. The trap jaws **12** and **14** are movable independently of the retaining bar **44** so that when the animal opens its mouth and closes its jaws upon the bait, the latch arm **28** will rock and disengage, causing the trap jaws **12** and **14** to move toward each other, with cushions **22** and **24** bearing against the jaws of the animal for trapping the animal thereto. The bait can be either of the solid or liquid type which may contain a tranquilizer to quiet, not harm the animal.

The humane animal trap **10** further contains a coiled spring **46** that has a hook **48** on one end and a ring **50** on other end in which the hook end **48** is engaged with the first pivot pin **16**. A chain **52** has one end attached to the ring end **50** of the coiled spring **46** while other end of the chain **52** is attached to a suitable fixed object **54**, such as a stake driven into the ground. A pair of elongated rods **56** are formed as part of the C-shaped retaining bar **44** which extends rearwardly through the coiled spring **46** beyond the ring end **50**. Each of the rods **56** has a lateral projection **58** so that when the coiled spring **46** is drawn outwardly from the trap jaws **12** and **14** by

a pulling action of the animal, the projections **58** will engage end of the coiled spring **46** and limit outward movement thereof, thus preventing the animal from injurying itself and breaking its teeth upon the retaining bar **44**.

The humane animal trap **10** can further include padding material **60** which can be scented for attracting the animal. The padding material **60** is attached to the retaining bar **44**, as shown in FIG. **8** in phantom, for preventing the animal from injurying and breaking its teeth upon the retaining bar **44** when the animal is trapped thereto.

LIST OF REFERENCE NUMBERS

10 humane animal trap
12 upper trap jaw
14 lower trap jaw
16 first pivot pin
18 upper spring
18*a* loop portion
18*b* long arm
18*c* short L-shaped arm
20 lower spring
20*a* loop portion
20*b* long arm
20*c* short L-shaped arm
22 upper cushion
24 lower cushion
25 adhesive or the like
26 second pivot pin
28 latch arm
30 opening in upper trap jaw
32 notch in latch arm
34 notches in latch arm
36 spring for latch arm
38 head on latch arm
40 shoulder on latch arm
42 spoon shaped bait-receiving member
44 C-shaped retaining bar
45 ball shaped member on retaining bar
46 coiled spring
48 hook end
50 ring end
52 chain
54 fixed object
56 elongated rod
58 lateral projection
60 padding for retaining bar

It will be understood that each of the elements described above, or two or more together, may also find a useful application in other types of methods differing from the type described above.

While certain novel features of this invention have been shown and described and are pointed out in the annexed claims, it is not intended to be limited to the details above, since it will be understood that various omissions, modifications, substitutions and changes in the forms and details of the device illustrated and in its operation can be made by those skilled in the art without departing in any way from the spirit of the present invention.

Without further analysis, the foregoing will so fully reveal the gist of the present invention that others can, by applying current knowledge, readily adapt it for various applications without omitting features that, from the standpoint of prior art, fairly constitute essential characteristics of the generic or specific aspects of this invention.

What is claimed is new and desired to be protected by Letters Patent is set forth in the appended claims.

1. A humane animal trap which comprises:

(a) a pair of trap jaws movable toward and from each other and including an upper trap jaw having a top and side walls and a lower trap jaw having a bottom and side walls overlapping said side walls of said upper trap jaw;

(b) a first pivot pin pivotly connecting said trap jaws together;

(c) a pair of springs disposed on said first pivot pin tending to move said trap jaws toward each other;

(d) a pair of cushions, which can be scented for attracting an animal, are each removably attached to inner faces of said walls of each of said trap jaws being sufficiently smooth, soft and unobstructed to prevent injury to jaws of an animal when closed upon the same;

(e) a second pivot pin carried by said lower trap jaw;

(f) a latch arm carried by said second pivot pin and extending through an opening the said upper trap jaw, said latch arm having a notch on one side thereof adapted to engage said top wall of said upper trap jaw and hold said trap jaws open against action of said springs and a series of notches on other side thereof adapted to engage top surface of said top wall of said upper trap jaw to prevent opening of said trap jaws;

(g) a spring tending to move said series of notches into engagement with said top wall of said upper trap jaw;

(g) a spoon shaped bait-receiving member connected to said latch arm; and

(i) a generally C-shaped retaining bar having a ball shaped member formed thereon, carried by said second pivot pin and located between said trap jaws in advance of said spoon shaped bait-receiving member and adapted to engage and hold front teeth of the animal, said trap jaws being movable independently of said retaining bar, so that when the animal opens its mouth and closes its jaws upon the bait, said latch arm will rock and disengage causing said trap jaws to move toward each other with cushions bearing against the jaws of the animal for trapping the animal thereto .

2. A humane animal trap as recited in claim **1**, further comprising:

(a) a coiled spring having a hook on one end and a ring on other end, said hook end being engaged with said first pivot pin;

(b) a chain having one end attached to said ring end of said coiled spring while other end of said chain is attached to a suitable fixed object; and

(c) a pair of elongated rods formed as part of said C-shaped retaining bar which extends rearwardly through said coiled spring beyond said ring end, each of said rods having a lateral projection so that when said coiled spring is drawn outwardly from said trap jaws by a pulling action of the animal said projections will engage end of said coiled spring and limit outward movement thereof, thus preventing the animal from injurying itself and breaking its teeth upon said retaining bar.

3. A humane animal trap as recited in claim **2**, further comprising padding material which can be scented for attracting the animal, said padding material attached to said retaining bar for preventing the animal from injurying and breaking its teeth upon said retaining bar when the animal is trapped thereto.

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