

United States Department of Agriculture
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
Wildlife Services Directive

WS 2.455
7/29/2021

SCENTS, BAITS AND ATTRACTANTS

1. PURPOSE

To establish guidelines regarding preparation and use of baits, scents, and attractants to aid in capturing target animals.

2. REPLACEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

This Directive replaces WS Directive 2.455, Scents, Baits, and Attractants, date February 17, 2004.

3. AUTHORITY

7 U.S.C. 8351 to 8353, and 16 U.S.C. 667, authorizes officers, agents, and employees of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Wildlife Services (WS) to conduct a program of wildlife services and to enter into agreements with states, local jurisdictions, individuals, and public and private agencies, organizations, and institutions for the purpose of conducting such services.

4. POLICY

- a. Prepared scents, baits, and other attractants to aid in capturing animals will be used in accordance with Federal, State, and local laws.
- b. Game animals, furbearers, and fish, or parts thereof, may be used as ingredients in scents or attractants provided that the game and furbearer species are not taken specifically for this purpose or that such use and/or possession is not prohibited by Federal, State, and local laws or regulations.
- c. Animal carcasses and parts of game animals or fish may be used to attract target animals provided that usage and/or possession complies with all applicable Federal, State, and local laws, regulations, and policies. If the possibility exists of a carcass being dragged or moved to within 30 feet of a set foot-hold trap, snare, or M-44, the carcass will be secured to restrict movement (WS Directive 2.450, Traps and Trapping Devices).
- d. Live animals used for decoys, attractants, or scent collection will be provided adequate food, water, shelter, and protection.

- e. Where applicable and feasible, specific efforts will be made to reduce the probability of unintentional bald or golden eagle (or other non-target raptor) disturbance or capture when setting and baiting capture devices.

5. SCOPE

This Directive is applicable to all WS personnel.

6. REFERENCES

WS Directive 2.450, Traps and Trapping Devices

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