

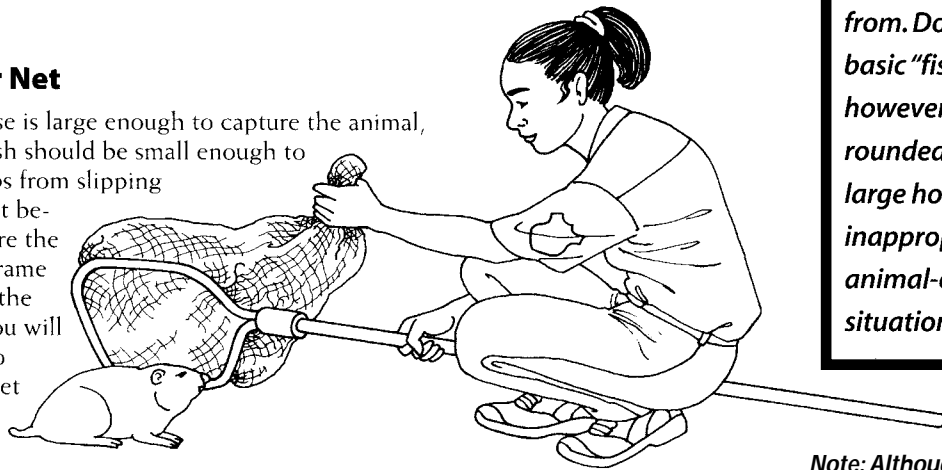
How to Use a Net

The net is one of the oldest animal-handling tools and it remains one of the best. It is the most humane and effective tool for capturing cats and many wild animals. But don't let the net's simple concept fool you: Handling a net can be tricky.

The steps below are guidelines that won't necessarily work in every situation. Some animals fly, some run, and some attack. The "netting" technique you use will likely vary depending on the type of animal you're attempting to capture, the physical surroundings, and your own comfort level.

1: Choose Your Net

Make sure the net you use is large enough to capture the animal, but not too big. The mesh should be small enough to prevent the animal's limbs from slipping through. Examine the net before each use to make sure the mesh isn't torn and the frame isn't damaged. Evaluate the situation to make sure you will have the space needed to properly maneuver the net around the animal.

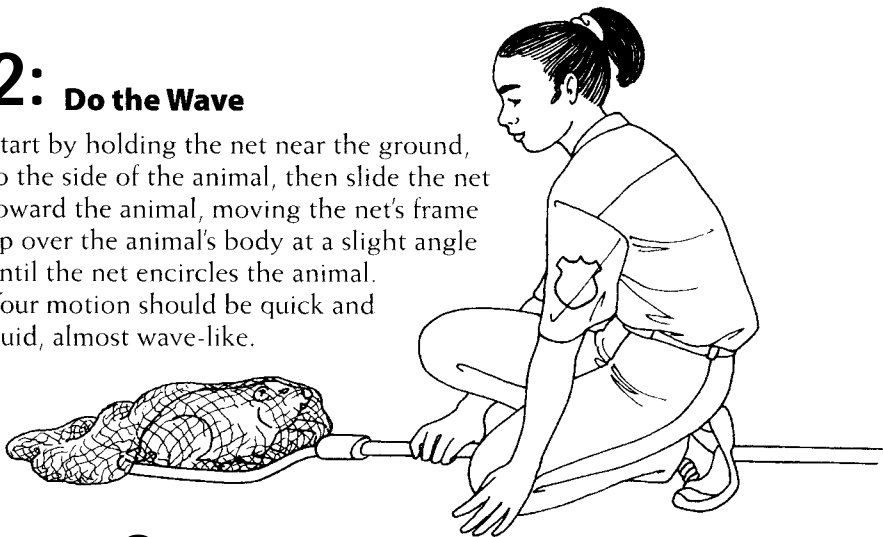


Not all types of nets work for all types of animals or in all situations. Your shelter should have several different sizes and styles of nets to choose from. Don't rely on basic "fishing" nets, however: Their rounded corners and large holes make them inappropriate for most animal-capture situations.

Note: Although several innovative nets are available on the market, this How-to page uses a basic net for illustration purposes.

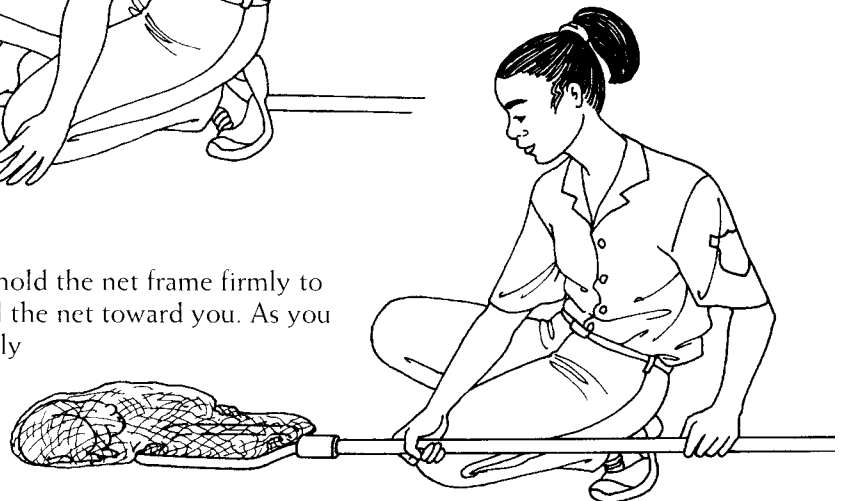
2: Do the Wave

Start by holding the net near the ground, to the side of the animal, then slide the net toward the animal, moving the net's frame up over the animal's body at a slight angle until the net encircles the animal. Your motion should be quick and fluid, almost wave-like.



3: Take It Easy

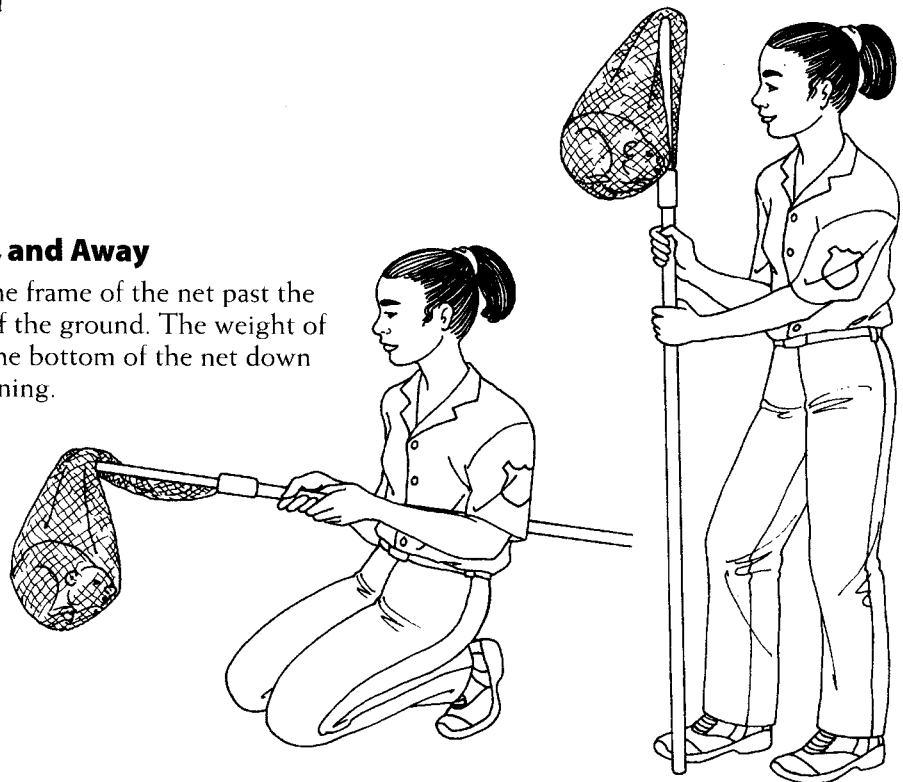
After the animal is confined, hold the net frame firmly to the ground and smoothly pull the net toward you. As you do so, the animal will be gently moved past the frame and into the mesh of the net. When this happens, you're almost there!



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4: Pull Up, Up, and Away

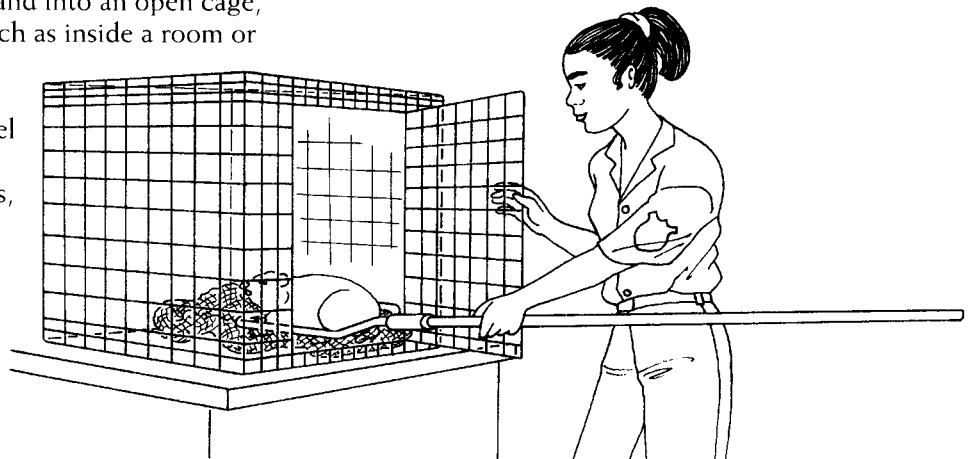
After you've pulled the frame of the net past the animal, lift the net off the ground. The weight of the animal will pull the bottom of the net down and close off the opening.



5: Hit Rewind

To get the animal out of the net and into an open cage, first get into an enclosed area, such as inside a room or your animal-control vehicle.

Place the net as close as possible to (or inside) the cage and unravel the animal from the net to get him into the cage. In other words, reverse the process you used to capture the animal.



Don't attempt to use the net as you would a jar over a bug. Slamming the net down over the animal will backfire because the animal will be startled and may struggle or fight. You won't be able to then maneuver the net correctly for a successful capture.



Don't leave the net open at the top with the animal hanging in the bottom. The animal will take advantage of the opening and escape.