

# Fox



- **Characteristics**

- The red fox is a member of the canine family and is similar in form to a small dog (Figure RF1). Adult red fox are typically 39-43 inches in length and weigh from 7-15 lbs. They have a long bushy tail equal to about 70% of their body length. Red fox display three color phases. The red phase is the most common in North America. Silver phase red fox are much less common and are primarily black, except for a white tip on the tail and silver frostings on the guard hair tips. Cross phase red fox are dark in coloration with light patches near the legs, shoulders, and hips, giving them a distinct cross pattern of dark fur across the shoulders and back. Red foxes can be distinguished from gray foxes by their white-tipped tail. Silver and cross phases rarely occur south of Canada. Multiple color phases can occur in the same litter. The scientific name is *Vulpes vulpes*.

- **Range**

- Red fox range across most of North America from Alaska and northern Canada south to central Texas. They occur from the east coast westward through the Rocky Mountains, and throughout the Cascade Range in the Pacific Northwest and northern California. They are absent from the southern coastal plain from North Carolina through Florida.

- **Habitat**

- Red fox occupy habitats within barren arctic regions, boreal forests, mountainous forest regions as far north as Alaska, agricultural and woodland habitats throughout their range, as well as suburban and urban areas. Habitat quality, particularly prey availability, is a limiting factor for red fox density, but has not limited the distribution of this species.

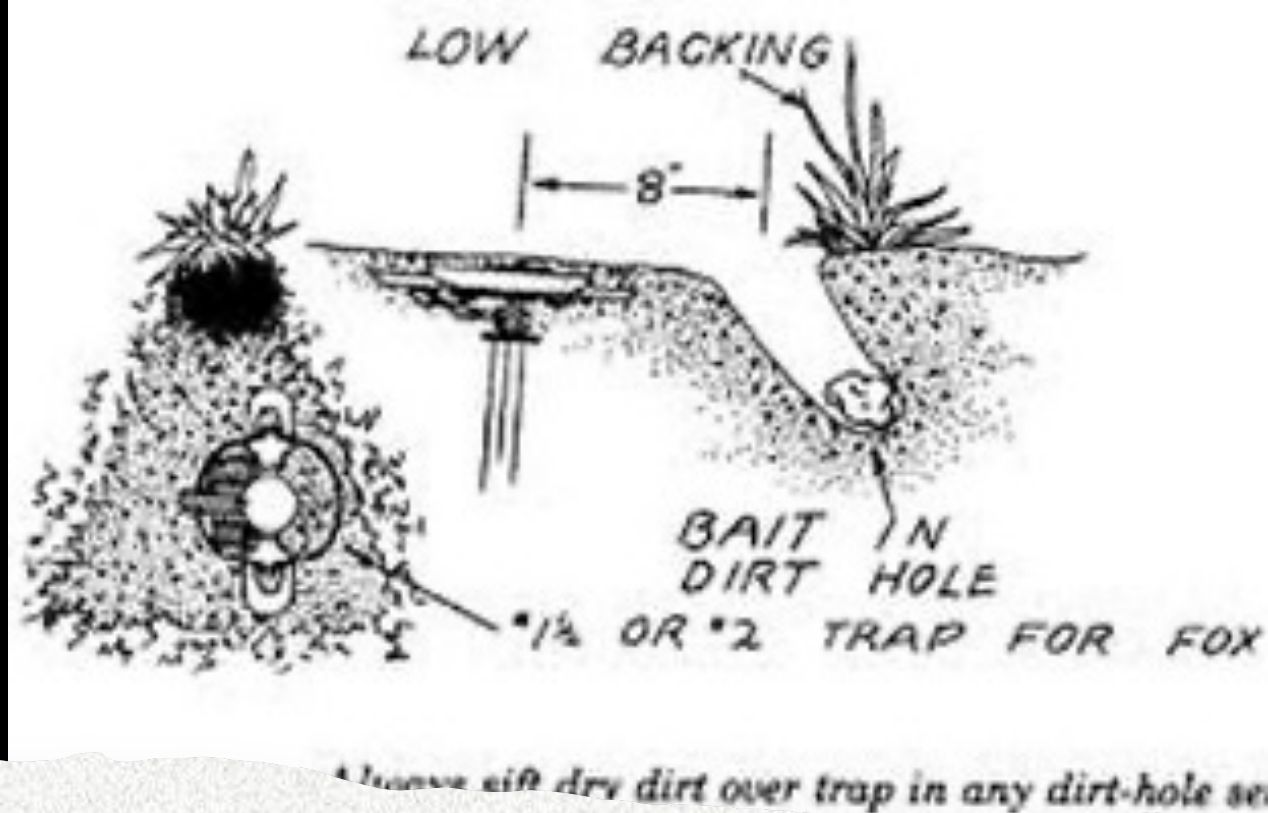
- **Food Habits**

- Red foxes are omnivores, consuming animals ranging from insects to small mammals, rabbits and sometimes pets. They commonly take ground-nesting birds and bird eggs, and turtles, frogs, and snakes. Berries and fruits are eaten when available.

# Trapping Fox

- **General Considerations When Trapping Red Foxes**
- *Jaw-type Traps*
  - Many currently used trap models meet specifications;
  - Pan tension set to two pounds improves selectivity and foot placement in the trap;
  - Captures and holds animals alive, allowing for release.
- *Powered Cable Devices (foot capture)*
  - Pan-tension set to four pounds improves selectivity;
  - Large cable-loop diameter minimizes capture of smaller species;
  - Cables require frequent replacement;
  - Captures and holds animals alive, allowing for release.
- *Non-Powered Cable Devices*
  - The use of loop stops and breakaway devices can improve selectivity;
  - Cables require frequent replacement;
  - Captures and holds animals alive, allowing for release.





Sets for Fox – Dirt Hole

# Sets for Fox – Cubby set





A photograph of a bobcat in a snowy environment. The bobcat is looking towards the camera. Above its head, there is a small orange rectangle. The background is a snowy, slightly blurred landscape.

# Bobcat

## Characteristics

The bobcat is a medium sized member of the cat (Felidae) family. Adult males average 20-28 pounds, while females 14-20 pounds. The base coloration of the bobcat is typically reddish-brown with darker fur traversing the middle of the back. Both sexes can be differentiated from similar species by a bobbed tail (about 5 inches) that is black at the very tip only on the top and sides, but pale or white on the bottom.

## Range

The bobcat is the most widely distributed native felid in North America and is found in all 48 of the contiguous United States, in Canadian provinces bordering the United States and in non-tropical Mexico.

## Habitat

The adaptability and wide prey base of the bobcat allows for the occupation of a wide range of habitats. Assuming adequate cover, forests, grasslands, deserts, and mountainous regions are all suitable bobcat habitat. Large areas of intense cultivation or human development are less desirable habitats. Rough, rocky country interspersed with dense cover seems to be the preferred habitat.

## Food Habits

Bobcats are opportunistic and effective predators. Primarily carnivorous, their most common prey includes small mammals such as mice, rats and rabbits. Bobcats also prey on deer fawns, and are capable of preying on adult deer, particularly when heavy snow cover favors the bobcat's mobility and hunting techniques.

# Trapping Bobcats

- **General Considerations When Trapping Bobcats**
- *Foothold Traps*
  - Many currently-used trap models meet specifications
    - Pan-tension set at two-four pounds may improve selectivity and foot placement in the trap
    - Can be used to capture several furbearer species
    - Captures and holds animals alive, allowing for release
- *Powered Cable Device (foot capture)*
  - Pan-tension set at two-four pounds may improve selectivity
    - Can be used to capture several furbearer species
    - Use of a loop stop (plastic sleeve) minimizes capture of smaller species
    - Cables require frequent replacement after capture
    - Captures and holds animals alive, allowing for release
- *Cage Traps*
  - Bulky
  - Requires bait or lure
  - Can be used to capture several furbearer species
  - Captures and holds animals alive, allowing for release





Sets for  
Bobcat –  
Cage trap



Sets for  
Bobcat –  
Cable  
Restraint





Sets for  
Bobcat -  
Foothold



# Wolf

- **Habitat**

- Provided sufficient large mammal prey is present, wolves can thrive in a diversity of habitats from the tundra to woodlands, taiga, forests, grasslands and deserts.

- **Food Habits**

- Wolves are carnivores—they primarily eat large hoofed mammals such as deer, elk, bison and moose. They also hunt smaller mammals such as beavers, rodents and hares. Wolves are also scavengers and eat animals that have died due to other causes like starvation, disease or accidents.

- **Life History and Reproduction**

- Wolves are highly social animals. The basic social unit is the “pack” which typically consists of a mated pair accompanied by the pair’s offspring. Most packs have four to twelve members, but the size can range from as few as two wolves to as many as thirty. The average pack consists of a family of 1-2 adults, 3-6 juveniles and 1-3 yearlings. In the wild, wolves generally do not breed until at least two years of age, though breeding at one year of age has been documented. The age of first breeding in wolves depends largely on environmental factors. When food is plentiful or in newly colonizing populations, wolves can reproduce at younger ages. Wolves sometimes mate for life. In the northern United States, wolves breed from late January through March. Females are capable of producing pups every year after the first breeding. While four to seven pups is the average litter size, litter size can vary significantly. Gestation is ~63 days. The pack cares for the pups until they mature at about ten months of age. When young adults mature, they can either remain in the pack or leave to find their own territory. Most animals eventually disperse to a new area if they do not become a breeder in their natal pack.

- **Populations**

- There are an estimated 60,000 wolves in Canada and Alaska and about 5,000 in the lower 48 states as of 2013. Gray wolf populations are increasing and expanding in the lower 48. Productive dialogue on these issues remains a critical component of long-term wolf conservation.



- **Considerations When Trapping Wolves**

- **General**

- Use heavy chain (at least 3/16") to anchor traps.
- Weld all connections shut including J-hooks, S-hooks, lap links, cold shuts, etc.
- If staking traps, double-stake (whether using rebar or earth anchors) and use
  - reinforced double-stake brackets with rebar.
  - If using drags, consider that wolves captured on drags may travel far from the
    - location where captured. Also be cognizant of potential rain or snow events that may make following 'drag marks' more difficult. With drags, use a minimum of eight feet (8') of chain and a well-designed drag, strong enough to prevent drag hooks from bending open and also heavy enough to limit the distance a wolf or other large animal can move from the capture site. Coyote sized drags are usually inadequate. Also, consider the use of a supplemental drag (i.e., a length of log (six to eight feet long) cabled to the trap chain with aircraft cable) in open areas where a captured wolf is likely to travel a long distance.
- Inspect traps, chains, swivels and all connections thoroughly for damage following a capture.
- Some wolf traps may hold black bear, grizzly bear, mountain lion and other large animals. If trapping during early fall before bear denning begins, or in areas where mountain lion may occur, trappers should be prepared for a potential capture/release.

# Trapping Wolf

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Sets for  
Wolf— Dirt  
hole set





Sets for Wolf  
– Cable  
restraint

# Badger

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- **Characteristics**

- The badger is a member of the Mustelidae family. Badgers have physical characteristics common to other mustelids such as short, powerful legs, and a stout, compact, low-slung body. Badgers have huge foreclaws (measuring up to 2 inches in length) which they use for digging burrows and hunting prey. Males are typically larger than females with females averaging 15.5 pounds and males averaging up to 20 pounds. In general, badgers measure between 24 to 29.5 inches in length. Badgers are covered with
  - a grizzled, silvery coat of coarse hair over the upper body. Feet are black and the belly and under-tail are yellowish. The face displays a distinctive black and white pattern,

- **Range**

- Badgers range throughout the western and central United States, north into central Canada and south into northern Mexico.

- **Habitat**

- Badgers prefer open grasslands, tallgrass and shortgrass prairie regions and parklands. They may also be found in deserts, forest glades, mountain meadows, and brushy areas with soils that allow them to easily dig for prey and dig burrows. Burrows are used for denning and provide protection from weather, concealment from predators, and a safe place to raise young. Burrows may be up to 30 feet in length and 10 feet deep.

- **Food Habits**

- Badgers are fossorial (adapted to life underground) carnivores. These predators prey primarily on small rodents (ground squirrels, prairie dogs, etc.), but they also consume reptiles and amphibians, ground nesting birds, carrion, and insects. They are opportunistic feeders and have been known to eat fish and some plant material including mushrooms, corn, and sunflowers.

## Trapping Badger

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- **General Considerations When Trapping Badger**
- **Foothold Traps**
- Many currently-used trap models meet specifications;
- Pan-tension set between two and four pounds may improve selectivity and foot placement in the trap;
- Can be used to capture several furbearer species; Captures and holds animals alive, allowing for release;
- Badgers are wide-bodied and short-legged. To accommodate this body shape and potentially improve catch rate, make trap sets a few inches right or left of a main trail.







Sets for  
badger – Dirt  
hole set

# Fisher

- **Description**

- The fisher (*Martes pennanti*) is a member of the “weasel” family,
- fishers have long and slender bodies,
- noticeable growth of whiskers around the snout,
- a pointed face and
- relatively short, strong legs.
- A bushy tail makes up about one-third of the overall length,
- . Adult males typically weigh nearly twice that of females and average about 8.5 pounds, with females averaging four to five pounds. Adult males average from 35 to 47 inches in overall length, while adult females average 29 to 37 1/2 inches.
- The coat of most fishers is grayish brown to dark brown, though the fur on the rump, tail and legs is generally black. The fur on the head and shoulders may be grizzled with beautiful gold and silver coloration, especially on males.
- Most fisher have white colored patches on their chests and/or groin also.
- Fisher spend most of their time on the ground, though they are expert and agile climbers. Like other mustelids, fishers have anal scent glands that produce a pungent odor.

- **Range**

- occurs only in North America and is found throughout the Northwest, Northeast, and northern portions of the Midwest regions of the United States.

- **Habitat**

- The fisher prefers forests with a variety of species and ages of hardwood and coniferous trees. Adequate overhead cover, provided by dense conifers, is an important habitat component during winter due to the fact that snow accumulation on the forest floor is reduced, permitting fishers to travel and hunt more efficiently. Hardwood trees are an important habitat component as well, as fishers rely on dead snags or cavities in live trees for den sites





# Set for Fisher

Trap Category	Total Dimensions* Length x Width x Height	Door Size* Width x Height	Mesh Size*/Gauge	
Cage	32 x 10 x 12.75	10 x 12	1 x 2 12 gauge galvanized	
	Height of Trap Window*	Width of Trap Window*	Frame Wire*	Spring Wire*
<sup>†</sup> Bodygrip	4 1/4 - 7	4 1/4 - 7 1/4	3/16 - 1/4	3/16 - 1/4

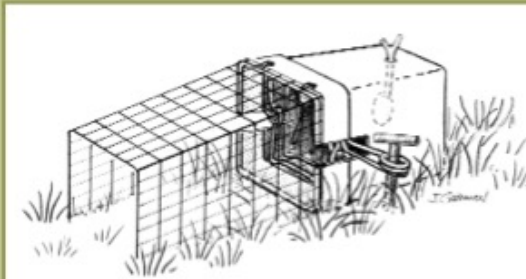
- **General Considerations When Trapping Fisher**

- *Cage Traps*

- Can be used to capture several furbearer species
- Can be used in locations and in weather conditions where other traps are less effective
- Capture and hold animals alive, allowing for release
- Often require bait
- Are bulky

- *Bodygrip Traps*

- Should be placed so that the rotating jaws capture the animal by closing on the top and bottom of the animal's neck (Figure FS2a)
- Can be used in locations and in weather conditions where other traps are less effective
- May not be appropriate in some areas (captures and kills animals, no release)
- May need additional protection in some areas to avoid capture of non-target animals



**Figure FS2b.** Bodygrip, cubby set with restricted entry



**Figure FS2c.** Bodygrip, pole set



# Marten

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- **Characteristics**

- The American Marten “weasel” family. The marten has a long and slender body, pointed face, conspicuous ears, short legs, and a bushy tail that makes up about one-third of its overall length. An average marten is about the size of a small house cat. Adult males are larger than adult females and average between 1 2/3 to 2 3/4 pounds, with females averaging 1 1/2 to 1 7/8 pounds. Adult males average from 24 to 26 inches in overall length, while adult females average 21 to 23 inches. The pelage color is a yellowish-brown, though the fur on the tail and legs is generally dark brown. There is a cream, yellow or orange colored patch on the throat and chest. The entire underside is paler than the back side. Like other mustelids, martens have anal scent glands that produce a pungent odor.

- **Range**

- Marten are found throughout Alaska, the Northwest Region, Northeast Region, and northern portions of the Midwest Region of the United States. In the West, the range extends south into New Mexico following the Rocky Mountains.

- **Habitat**

- Mature conifer forests or forests of mixed woods are the preferred habitat of martens. Large older trees and large logs are an important habitat component as well, as martens rely on these for den sites.

- **Food Habits**

- Marten are opportunistic feeders and consume a varied array of animal and plant material. Principle food items are associated with preferred habitats and consist of a wide variety of small mammal species including snowshoe hares, squirrels, voles, mice and shrews. Other contributions to the diet come from birds and their eggs, amphibians, reptiles, fruits, berries and insects. Martens will consume carrion and are easily attracted to baited areas. Martens are chiefly nocturnal, though in harsh climates they may be most active during daylight hours to take advantage of the sun’s warmth and the peak activity of prey species.



## General Overview of Traps Meeting BMP Criteria for American Marten in the United States

Bodygrip traps were tested for martens. Examples, brief descriptions and mechanical details of the various devices are given in the next section.

**Table MT1.** Overview of traps meeting BMP criteria for American Marten in the contiguous United States.\*

Trap Category	Height of Trap Window**	Width of Trap Window**	Frame Wire**	Spring Wire**
<sup>†</sup> Bodygrip	4 <sup>7</sup> / <sub>16</sub> – 5 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>16</sub>	4 <sup>5</sup> / <sub>8</sub> – 4 <sup>13</sup> / <sub>16</sub>	<sup>3</sup> / <sub>16</sub> – <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	<sup>3</sup> / <sub>16</sub> – <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub>

\* Not applicable in Alaska

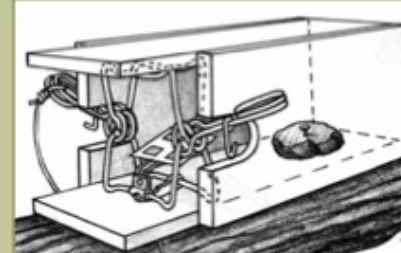
\*\* inches

<sup>†</sup> All bodygrip traps tested had two springs

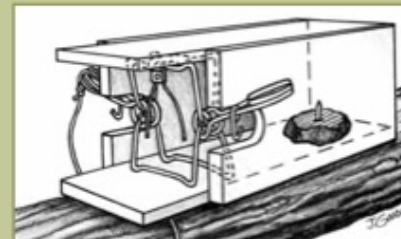
### General Considerations When Trapping American Marten

#### Bodygrip Traps

- Should be set so that the rotating jaws capture the animal by closing on the top and bottom of the captured animal's neck (Figure MT2a) or use a double strike set (Figure MT2b).
- Can be used in locations and in weather conditions where other traps are less effective
- May not be appropriate in some areas (captures and kills animals, no release)
- May be used on an elevated running pole or tree, or set in a baited cubby on or above the ground. May be deployed with a pan trigger (Figure MT2c) or a "V" trigger configuration (Figure MT2d).



**Figure MT2c.** Bodygrip trap in pole set baited cubby with pan trigger



**Figure MT2d.** Bodygrip trap in pole set baited cubby with "V" configured trigger

Sets for  
Marten

# Fur Handling

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- <https://mdc.mo.gov/hunting-trapping/trapping/what-do-you-do-your-catch#:~:text=Undried%20pelts%20are%20often%20called,stretch%2C%20and%20dry%20the%20pelts.>
- In the round or whole
  - Not as popular anymore
- Green Fur (skinned and frozen)
  - What I prefer
- Fleshing Fur
  - Scrape fat and meat off hide
- Dry and Stretched Fur
  - Majority of fur sellers
- Tanning Fur
  - <https://www.outdoorlife.com/story/survival/the-ultimate-guide-to-tanning-wild-game-pelts-and-hides/>





# Meat handling

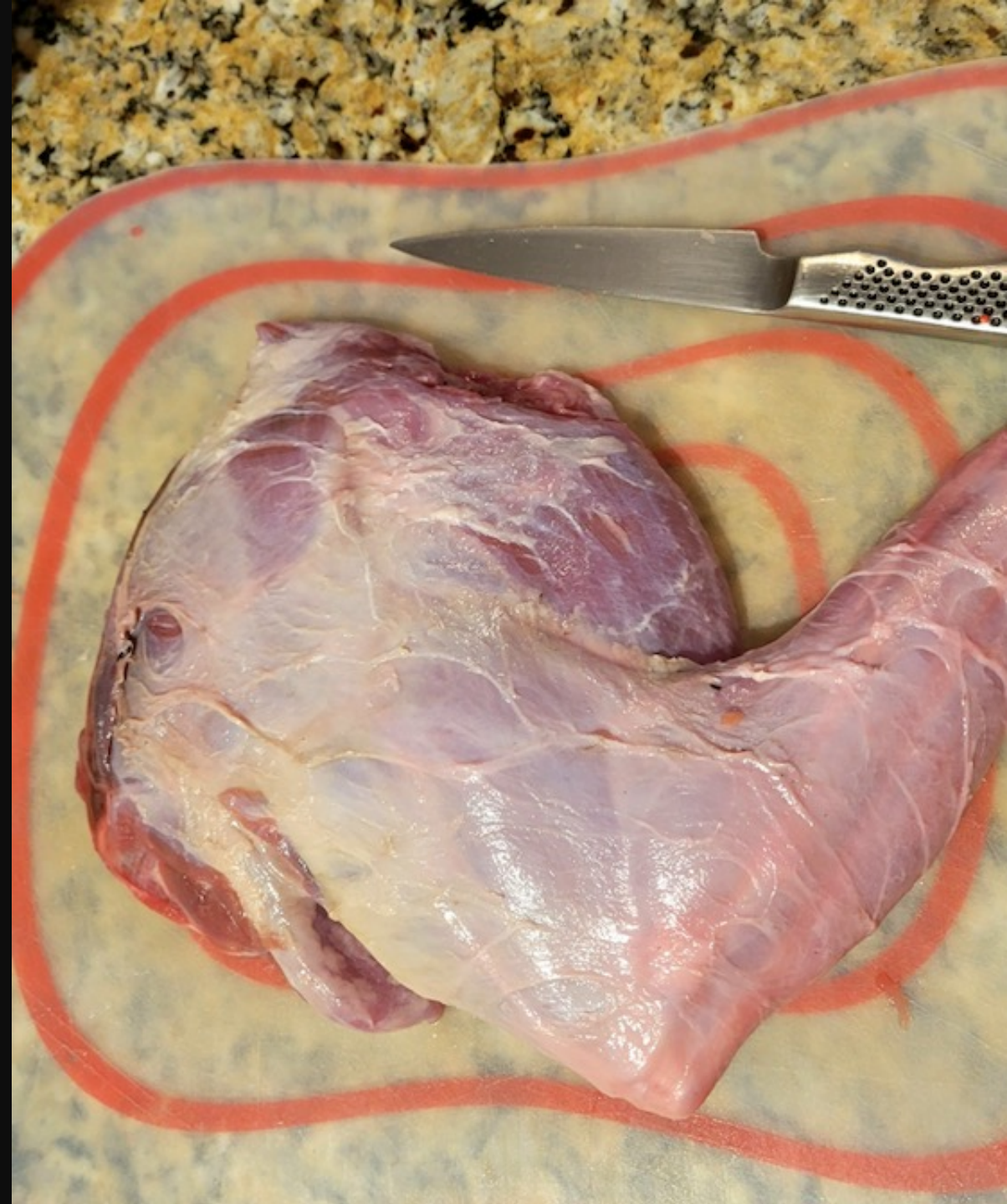
- Warning- Do not consume meat you believe to be unsafe or that may have spoiled – If you cannot confirm an animal in your trap has been below 32 degrees between the time it expired and the time you prepared it to eat, DO NOT eat that animal!
- Recipes
  - Bobcat Carnitas



# Bobcat Carnitas recipe

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- Gato Montes Estofado Tacos (Stewed Wildcat)
  - This recipe uses the front quarters of one Bobcat. However, will also work well with cougar and pork. This is essentially my spin a carnitas recipe using a not-so-commonly-eaten wild game species. This recipe was a hit at an AFI Sage Grouse hunt in Southern Idaho with Ryan Callaghan. It will definitely make one think twice about passing on the elusive Bobcat!
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# Ingredients:

- Ingredients:
  - Two front quarters from one Bobcat, boned out. (approx. 5 lbs)
  - Salt
  - Coarse ground pepper
  - Garlic powder / granulated garlic
  - 2 TBSP avocado oil
  - 1 to 2 yellow onions, chopped into larger pieces
  - 5 cloves garlic, minced
  - 2 TSP Mexican oregano
  - 1 1/2 TSP cumin
  - 2 red chilis, thinly sliced
  - 4 bay leaves
  - 1 - 12 oz can/bottle of beer (I used Modelo)
  - 2 cups chicken stock
  - 4 oranges, juiced (approximately 2 cups)
  - 1 chipotle pepper seeded, and finely chopped, plus 1 TBSP of adobo sauce
  - 2 limes, juiced





## Serve With:

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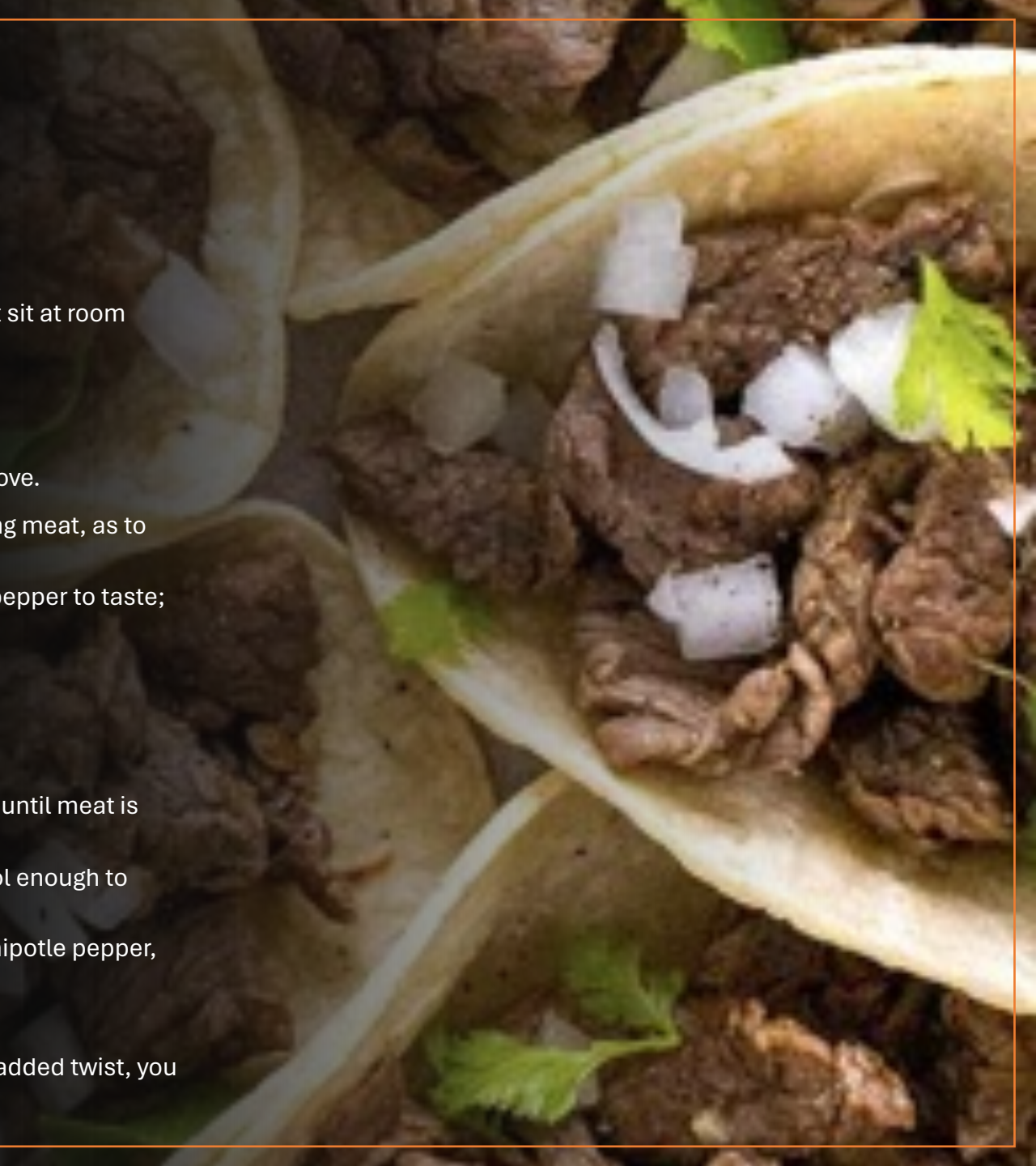
- Serve with:
- - Tortillas (warmed)
- - Fresh cilantro, finely chopped
- - Cotija cheese, finely shredded / chopped
- - 1 white onion, finely chopped





# Cooking Instructions

1. Preheat oven to 325 degrees.
2. Season the boned-out meat generously with salt, pepper, and garlic powder, letting it sit at room temperature for half an hour.
3. Heat the avocado oil over medium-high heat in a large dutch oven
4. Place the meat in the pot, and evenly brown all over.
5. Remove meat from dutch oven, placing aside on a plate. Return the dutch oven to stove.
6. Add oil to the pot, and with a wooden spoon or spatula scrape remnants from cooking meat, as to not allow it to burn to the pot.
7. Add the onions, garlic, oregano, cumin, sliced chili pepper, bay leaves, and salt and pepper to taste; cook for 7 to 8 minutes.
8. Deglaze the dutch oven with beer, scraping the bits stuck to the bottom.
9. Stir in the chicken stock.
10. Add the previously browned meat back to the pot and bring to a simmer.
11. Place a cover on the dutch oven, remove from the burner, and put it in the oven. Cook until meat is very tender, about 2 1/2 to 3 hours.
12. Remove meat to a large bowl, and cover with foil to keep warm. When the meat is cool enough to handle, shred the meat apart using a couple of forks.
13. Simmer the braising liquid leftover in dutch oven until it is reduced by half. Add the chipotle pepper, adobo sauce, and lime juice.
14. Return the now shredded meat to the dutch oven and mix thoroughly.
15. Serve over warm tortillas with fresh cilantro, white onions, and Cotija cheese. For an added twist, you could place meat on a hot skillet, slightly browning it to add texture.







Questions on Part II?