

Trapping and Relocating Animals

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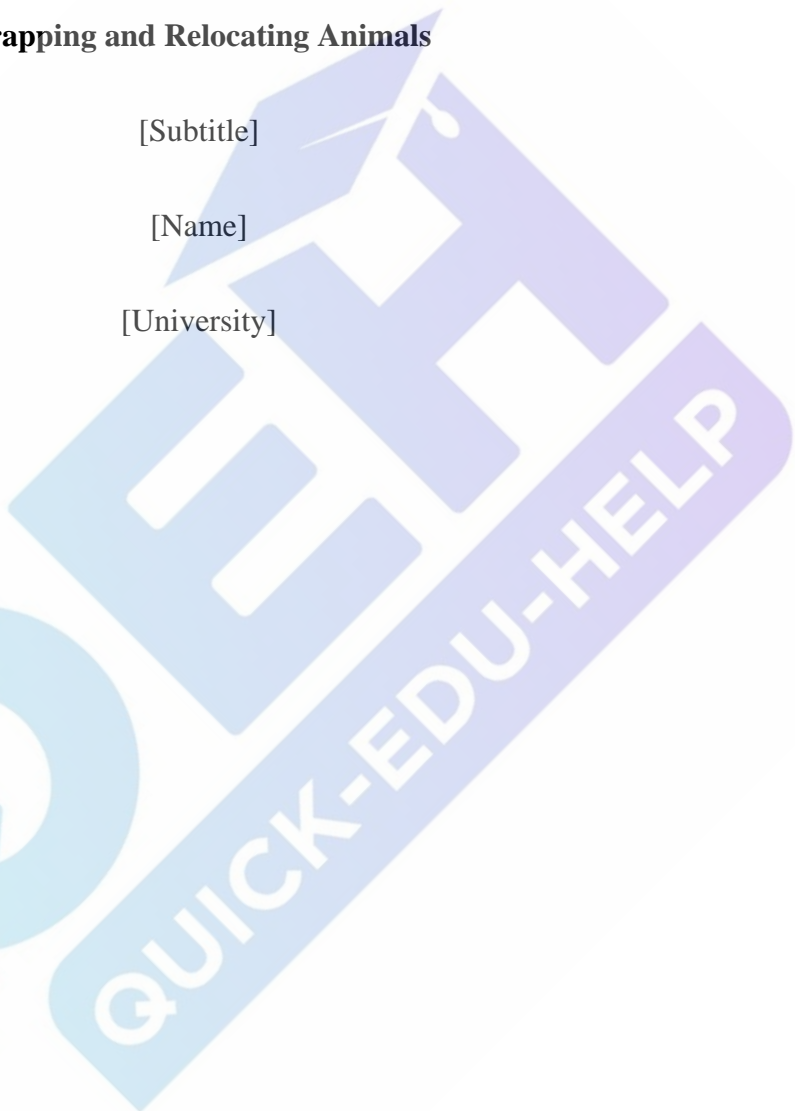


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1. Introduction

Animals are being trapped for a long time for multiple reasons, all over the world. Usually, they are trapped and consumed or relocated for personal benefits (Dubois & Harshaw, 2013). The conflicts between wild animals and humans become a primary reason for their entrapment and relocation, in several countries around the world, as noted by Hadidian (2015). The urban living styles of humans need a more secure, personalized, and safe environment, as compared to the old times, when people liked living in open environments (Hadidian, 2015). Modern humans prefer to live in a more secure place, away from wildlife. However, the problem is usually dealt by trapping animals and relocating them to other places. Schelling (2015) noted that a large number of animals die every year due to such trapping practices.

2. Literature Review

A large number of animals such as foxes, coyotes, skunks, racoons, and badgers usually fall prey to the trapping practices, used by humans against wildlife (Uhlfelder, 2017). Trappers do not have to need a license for this purpose, so they can catch as many animals, as they want. The regulation is also minimum as has been noted by Uhlfelder (2017), for the case of the US.

2.1. Global Situation

2.1.1. Statistics

Animal trapping is a common practice around large parts of the world. A survey has revealed that 62% of trappers in the US trapped racoons, 55% went for coyotes, 37% were interested in muskrats, and 33% people were interested in beavers. More than 21% of

trappers claimed that animal trapping contributed a major source of their incomes (Faunalytics, 2016). There are more than 0.1 million licensed trappers in the US. As for unlicensed, they are even more in number. More than 4 million animals have been reported to die on annual basis (Schelling, 2015).

2.1.2. Regulating Authorities

There are a number of regulating authorities for wildlife management, tasked with the function of looking after trapping practices and threats to wildlife. For instance, North American states are being regulated for wildlife management by government experts on animals and wildlife (Dubois & Harshaw, 2013). As for the rest of the US, the states have the regulating authority for trapping and relocation of animals (Morris, 2016). According to Calling and Inglis (2009), the European Union has recognized 12 animals which are trapped as a sport, interest, or for income. Furthermore, the number of trappers ranges around 150,000 to 50. As for Canada, 19 animals are identified by the legal framework, while the number of trappers is around 60,000 at national level. In the United States, as revealed by Calling and Inglis (2009), there are only seven recognized species or wildlife animals, which are allowed to be relocated and captured. As for the Russian federation, more than 300,000 trappers exist while 12 species are identified by the legal framework.

2.2. Causes of Trapping and Relocating

2.2.1. Wildlife Management

Many species are usually capable of producing more young ones than their habitat allows them to. Therefore, to enable a stable and healthy wildlife population, wildlife management traps animals (Dubois & Harshaw, 2013). Regulated trapping has a positive

impact on the growth of animals since environmental conditions in forests might be harsh. Due to overcrowding, malnourishment, and starvation, animals in natural habitats might not be able to produce more young ones. Similarly, trapping can be useful for protecting endangered species. For example, black footed ferrets, sea turtle eggs, and other rare species. In this way, the species can be saved from being wiped off the face of earth (Truth About Fur, n.d.). If these species are not protected by trapping them, they might be predated by foxes, coyotes, racoons, and other animals. Therefore, it is only for their safety and survival that they are relocated after being captured.

2.2.2. Prevent Damage

Several type of damages can be caused by wildlife animals to human life and property. To ensure that human property and lives are secure, trapping and relocation of animals can be done. In this way, many harms can be prevented. Firstly, the overpopulation of wildlife animals can be stopped which might become the cause of spreading tularemia, rabies, and other diseases. Similarly, the overpopulation of beavers usually results in flooding crops, roads, homes, and other property. Therefore, they must be trapped to control their growth. In addition to this, a number of animals and moles can damage fields, weaken dikes, and block culverts due to their tunneling, which can be harmful for human property. In other cases, coyotes have been found to cause serious damages to domestic animals in North American regions. For instance, lambs and calves are often eaten or killed by coyotes, which is a serious headache for ranchers. The solution to this problem is achieved by trapping coyotes. Other such problems can arise when tigers, lions, and cheetahs come near residential

regions of humans. By entrapping them and moving them, people's lives can be saved (Hadidian, 2015).

2.2.3. Food and Clothing

It is only common to use animals for food and clothing. Many animals in the wild habitat are usually considered valuable as they are used in clothing. Roberts (2017) found that most of the people use wildlife animals for recreational purposes, which include food and clothing as well. According to a PETA report, animals have been trapped and hunted for their skins, for a long time. Leather, fur, wool, and exotic skins are some of the primarily used animal products in clothing industry (Woolf, 2018). Leather is one of the most fashionable items, used in casual wear, sportswear, and fancy wear. It is commonly used to manufacture gloves, coats, jackets, and boots. It comes from a large number of animals. Calf leather is one of the most commonly used leather in clothing industry. As for the other fabrics, wool is also a regular product of clothing industry which comes from animal skins. For the purpose of producing fabrics, such as wool and leather, animals are usually trapped and relocated (Woolf, 2018). In other cases, they are also slaughtered and consumed by a huge proportion of the world.

2.2.4. Perfumes

Designer perfumes are created from a plethora of ingredients which come from various sources. According to Locklear (2014), several popular perfume brands use animals for the extraction of their primary ingredients. Although the scents are attractive to most consumers, their ingredients come from places that common people do not know. Locklear (2014) reports that it is the reason that some of the ingredients used for manufacture of

perfumery are controversial. Also, Locklear (2014) reports that there are some cases when ingredients are only to be obtained by killing the animals. However, animals prove really useful as the perfume market has been booming for hundreds of years and will remain popular.

Locklear (2014) found that a special ingredient, called Ambergris, is a wax-like substance which is usually found in whales' stomachs and intestines. The exact causes behind the growth of this substance are unknown but it serves as an expensive as well as valuable ingredient for perfumery. It has been used by chemists, for a long time, to give a shimmering and exalting effect to the perfume.

2.2.5. Medicinal and Scientific Uses

One major cause behind animal relocation and trapping is their use in medicinal and scientific areas. Animal testing has been found very useful for creating medicines, drugs, and other chemical substances. Especially, in cosmetics, wildlife animals are used to test the effects of products such as shampoo, soaps, and perfumes ("Why are Animals Used in Scientific Research", n.d.).

Scientists usually use animal for their research work to get a better understanding of how human bodies work. The human body is an intricate network of organs and parts. For development of medicinal drugs, it is crucial that scientists have a deep insight of the working of body. This becomes very difficult without having something to test the drugs on. For this purpose, animals are employed as humans cannot be used in lab tests.

2.2.6. Public Display

It is a common observed practice to publicly display animals for a number of reasons. These reasons include entertainment and education purposes. Zoos are not only important in protection of wildlife animals but also promote educational knowledge among students (Russo, 2013). Research and education are important things which have enabled the existence of zoos to the day. However, all the amusement parks are regulated by the concerned authorities so that animal welfare is guaranteed. Researchers are enabled by public displays to learn about them and their care. Furthermore, public display of animals also positively promotes knowledge and education about them, among students and scholars. Russo (2013) also found that the perceptions of visitors are positively influenced when they attempt to learn about the species present at the zoos. Enhancing public knowledge about animals and their care is also an objective which is achieved through zoos. Many other entertainment activities such as animal fights and animal competitions also take place around the world, which are popular among a large number of people.

2.3. Disadvantages of Trapping and Relocating

Apart from the above discussed reasons for trapping and relocating animals, there are several disadvantages associated with them.

2.3.1. Animal Welfare Problems

Animal welfare problems are a major concern to experts since many animals die during the trapping process, as has been revealed by Schelling (2015). More than 4 million animals, on an annual basis, die due to traps set by trappers. In addition to this, such behavior is causing a fast impact on the animal community, especially in regions where the trappers

are more active. Schelling (2015) noted that those regions suffer more welfare problems where the trappers are aggressively active. For other regions, the welfare problems might be low but remain existent. This is also promoting extinction of several species due to their excessive trapping, relocation, and killing (Schelling, 2015).

2.3.2. Religious and Moral Values

Trapping and relocating animals, from their natural habitat, conflicts with religions, ethical, and moral values too. According to Vantassel (2007), a large number of people do not view animal trapping and slaughtering as a benefit since it involves pain to the animals for the sake of personal gains of humans. Therefore, the religious values go against such practices.

2.3.3. Ecological Problems

Due to excessive trapping and relocation of animals, environmental imbalance can occur. Trappers usually like to wander in specific environments where there is a greater probability of finding animals of their choice. By catching such animals, the environmental balance shifts from its natural position Turtenwald (2018). Such practices have other huge environmental impacts in the long run. For example, the food chain is seriously disturbed when relocation of animals occurs in one region because the animal might be a part of the food cycle. Any change in the food cycle is reflected on the overall ecology of the region (Vergunst & Savulescu, 2017).

3. Discussion

Trapping and relocation of animals is common around the world, as has been found from the above discussion. There are several advantages as were discussed by this paper. For

example, animal trapping places food on our tables and gives us our clothing. Similarly, perfumes are produced from animals, as some species have special chemicals inside their bodies which can be used in the production of scents. Similarly, there are cases when animal trapping is beneficial for the environmental aspects and ecological health of a region. For instance, in some cases, there is risk of extinction for some species of animals. In such cases, animal trapping serves the purpose of protecting them from becoming extinct. Without using trapping and relocation, their survival cannot be ensured in the said cases.

With that said, there are several adverse effects associated with trapping and relocation of animals. For example, the most important concern is the welfare of animals. Since they are living things and have the right to life, it is essential that their survival is promoted and their lives are not endangered. By trapping and relocating them, a large number of animals are usually killed and hurt. This can have negative effect on their health and existence. In addition to this, usually, the trapping of animals is against the moral, ethical and religious codes for most people.

On the basis of all the above discussion, the paper will make the following recommendations:

- Animal trapping and relocation must be controlled by strict and stringent laws, imposed by relevant regulating authorities.
- Animal trapping must be only encouraged if a particular species is facing the danger of becoming extinct. In such case, the animals must be relocated to a safe facility.
- Use of animals in scientific and research areas must be minimized and the ethics must be ensured during research.

- Relevant laws must be followed if the animal trapping is performed for clothing and food purposes.
- Viable replacements for animals must be found, in terms of food and clothing so that their trapping and relocation is minimized.
- Animal trapping and relocation must be allowed for educational purposes. However, the number of animals must be controlled strictly.

4. Conclusion

Animals are trapped and relocated for personal benefits. People have been adopting such practices since long. However, the paper found that such practices are associated with results which are against moral codes, religious codes, and animal welfare. Furthermore, impacts of such activities are also observed on environment, in long-term. Therefore, such activities must be avoided.



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