

A NEW CAPTURE PEN FOR CARIBBEAN FERAL DOG PACKS™

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The Turks and Caicos Islands, in the British West Indies, have a history of feral dog problems as do many other Caribbean island nations. These problems include attacks on tourists, presence on airport runways, and threats to residents. Previous efforts to resolve these problems included trapping, shooting, and a government proposal to introduce canine distemper. As an alternative, Global Wildlife Resources received a contract to capture feral dogs as part of a long-term multi-faceted program integrating animal capture, spay/neutering of community dogs, euthanasia of feral dogs, public education, training of local personnel, development of an animal shelter, and legislative changes. To address this unique challenge, GWR developed a unique portable capture pen for entire feral dog packs. Boxtraps also captured individual dogs near capture pens. The capture pens consisted of 2.4 m (8 ft) by 2.4 m (8 ft) chainlink panels assembled into a 4.8 m (16 ft) wide box. One panel contained a guillotine gate (www.kenneldoor.com) and a second panel contained a guillotine gate and human gate. Capture pens were pre-baited for 1-4 days. Gate controls were modified toy airplane rotor controls. The remote control consisted of a receiver, rotor, batteries with an on-off switch and a remote hand-held transmitter. When the rotor was activated, a pin pulled out of the guiding track dropping the gate. In three weeks, 370 dogs were captured: 117 by capture pen, 173 by boxtraps, and 80 by hand. Seventy community dogs were neutered and 300 feral dogs were anesthetized and then euthanized. The capture pen can be applied directly, or modified, to capture a variety of wildlife species, especially urban canids.