

The San Francisco SPCA's views on sticky glue traps

We have witnessed the horrible effects of sticky glue traps on mice and birds. Once a tiny paw or wing becomes stuck in the glue, these little creatures frantically struggle to free themselves—a struggle that only succeeds in enmeshing another wing, paw, chest, or tiny face in the sticky substance. As their struggles escalate, these trapped animals may tear patches of skin and hair or feathers from their bodies or gnaw off a leg in their panic to escape. Many will die slowly of hunger or thirst. Or, if their faces become trapped in the glue, they may suffocate after experiencing a period of intense fear and panic. To allow such suffering—much less to invite it by the use of sticky glue traps—is, we believe, unconscionable.



Nor do sticky glue traps discriminate in the suffering they inflict. Wildlife rescue centers regularly report non-target animals being fatally injured or debilitated as a result of encounters with sticky glue. Possums, raccoons, and birds are just a few of the animals reported to have fallen victim. And glue traps pose a threat to pets and children as well: these potential victims are not only at risk of becoming enmeshed in the glue themselves, but they may also be in danger of being bitten or scratched by animals entangled in these traps—animals who, vulnerable and frightened, may try to defend themselves against all who approach.

Like the steel-jawed traps that are now outlawed in our City, sticky glue traps are not intended to deter animals, nor do they kill instantly. Homeowners and others who set these traps must dispose of the victims, and few people are capable of administering death humanely. We have heard reports of live rats and mice stuck to glue traps being thrown in the trash, where their suffering is intensified and prolonged. Some people may try to beat these helpless animals with shovels or sticks to kill them. And others may attempt to drown them before dumping their bodies, still firmly stuck to the traps, in rubbish bins.

Several years ago, we succeeded in banning the use of steel-jawed traps in San Francisco. Glue traps, though aimed at different types of animals, are equally offensive: no creature should have to endure the pain and distress they can cause.