

4th March 2025

DOC and BT Traps Treadle Plate, How to Correct angle problem

Dave Edwards

A common problem on both the DOC and BT traps is that from new the Treadle plate can stick up at an angle.

If the Treadle plate is angled up it can significantly reduce the effective opening in the inner mesh, which restricts animals from entering and getting caught in the trap.

I will skip why they are like that and just deal with the how to rectify the problem.

You can alter the Treadle Plate angle in the field without removing the trap from the Box, you just need to remove the inner mesh so that you can fit the tube tool.

For the sake of clarity I have used a trap outside of a box and also painted the tube tool red.

First find a piece of light tube, steel or Aluminium, for the 200's it will need to be 16 to 22 mm in Diam and about 150 mm long, 250's you will need 20 or 22 mm and 170 mm long. I used an old Tent pole.



This is a New DOC 200 with an angled Treadle Plate

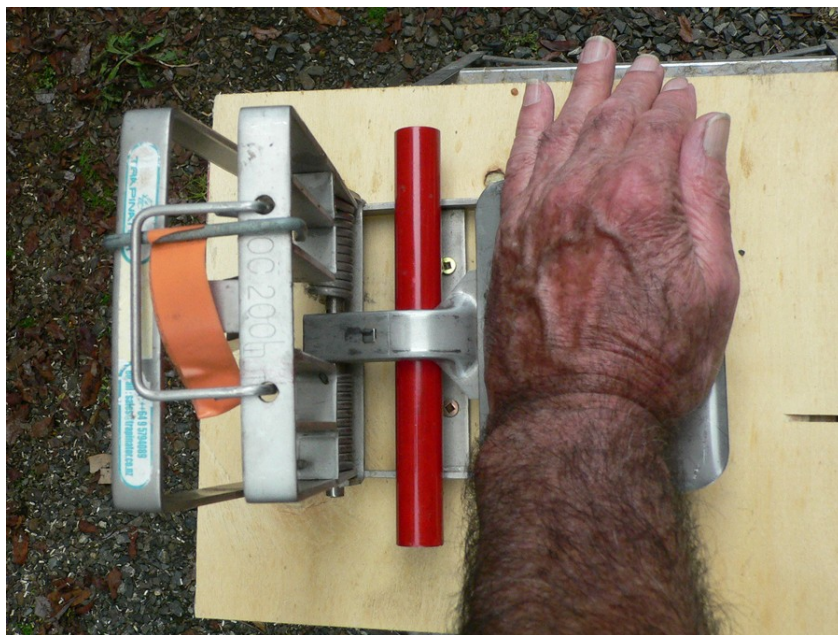
To check if any of your Traps do have a problem simply set the trap and look through the Mesh at the end of Box, if the treadle plate sits flat and Parallel to the base of trap it's fine. If it sits up at one end like in the photo, then it will need to be corrected.

To correct an angled Treadle Plate first set the trap and fit a Safety Catch. Note the Safety Catch must go underneath the Setting handle, fitting a Safety Catch near the outside of the Trap is asking for trouble.

Now set the trap off using a piece of stick. Remove the Inner Mesh and place your Tube Tool under the arm attached to the Treadle Plate, it will naturally want to sit in the lower curved part of the arm.

Using the Palm of your hand lightly press down on the Treadle plate close to where the Arm is joined to the Treadle Plate, you will feel the Treadle move slightly. Stop and reset the trap, then check the angle of plate, If it's not yet level set the trap off again, fit the Tube Tool and bend the treadle a bit more.

After you have altered a few Treadle Plates you will get to judge how much you need to bend them.



Tube Tool (painted Red for Clarity) placed in curve on underside of the arm, Treadle Plate bent using Palm of Hand. Note Safety Catch under Setting Handle.

Altering the Treadle Plate will NOT change the Trap Set Off Weight as you are bending past the Sear, but to be sure it's probably as good a time as any to check the set off weight of your Traps, and adjust if required. I will cover setting Trip weight in another info sheet.

While you are working on your traps it pays to have a good look at the Vertical opening in Internal Mesh, relative to Treadle Plate, when the Trap is set.

Occasionally mistakes happen, one lot I saw only had a 35mm opening above the Treadle Plate.

You might laugh but also check that the Mesh Baffle is around the right way, happens more that you might think. You are not going to catch anything if the opening in Mesh is not on the Treadle Plate side of Box.

Happy Trapping