

## **SUCCESSFUL HUMANE TRAPPING CHECKLIST**

- Survey the site, plot out the coterries w/ experienced help.
- Walk the site and note or mark active burrows; observe prairie dog activity (with binoculars) to confirm.
- Verify number of traps to be used at the selected site (Count TWICE!).
- Set ALL traps for 100% visibility at all times.
- Set the traps near the active burrows.
- “Plant” each trap so the bottom is slightly buried in dirt.
- Test each trap to verify it is in working order when baiting.
- Bait each trap for the requirements of the specific site.
- Use “teaser” food as appropriate, leading to the entrance of the trap.
- Expect 15-30 minutes for the prairie dogs to resume activities after disturbances.
- Relocate traps at appropriate intervals (disturbances, picking up a trap) if prairie dogs are inactive in one area.
- NEVER LEAVE A SITE UNATTENDED.

- Walk (don't run) to cover captured prairie dog in a trap with a heavy towel; do not approach directly.
- Carry trap covered by the towel ONLY by the handle or the ends (NO fingers through the wire).
- Lightly dust each new capture with flea powder.
- Transfer prairie dog from trap to hay-filled kennel with a spotter by inserting trap into kennel and releasing bottom door (two person job).
- Count the number of prairie dogs and identify the capture location by marking the tape label on the kennel.
- Mark the individuals with food color if multiple families are placed in the same kennel.
- Stage holding kennels in a protected location away from exposure to the elements and potential passers-by.
- Discard kennel hay that may be contaminated with flea powder or fleas with bedding hay.
- Collect all traps at the end of the session and leave bait near burrows for remaining prairie dogs.
- Verify number of traps retrieved (Count TWICE!).
- Verify all materials are retrieved (Towels, tote bins, binoculars, etc.).