

# 622 Trapping Muskrats

## Interview Questions

Use two or three of these or similar standard questions as *part* of the interview judging process.

1. The muskrat is a member of what family?  
*The rodent family. (page 6)*
2. Where would you most likely find a muskrat?  
*Areas with water and vegetation, i.e., a marsh, pond, stream. (page 7)*
3. Describe an “active” den.  
*An active den will have a smooth, worn appearance; it won’t have leaves, sticks, or any other debris blocking it. (page 9)*
4. What type of traps did you use?  
*Answers will vary. (pages 11-12)*
5. Will you use this same traps again, if not, why?  
*Answers will vary.*
6. Briefly explain how a leg hold trap works.  
*The trap is set so that the muskrat will step on top of the trap pan; the muskrat’s weight causes the trap pan to drop, allowing the dog to slip out of the pan notch. Then the jaws push it up and out of the way as they close on the leg of the muskrat. (page 11)*
7. Where should trap setting be practiced?  
*At home before you go trapping. (page 16)*
8. Where can a trapper find updated trapping laws?  
*Ohio Hunting and Trapping Regulations Booklet for that current year. (page 25)*
9. True or False. A trapper must purchase both a hunting and fur harvester license by completing a hunter’s education course and the trapper’s education course.  
*True. (page 25)*
10. How can a trapper ensure that captured animals are treated humanely?  
*By having well-prepared traps that are inspected before use. (page 27)*
11. What time of year is ideal for scouting your trapping areas and why?  
*October (autumn) is ideal, because muskrats are actively preparing for winter, thus, leaving more signs for the trapper to find. (page 30)*
12. What are at least two essential items for skinning and pelting?  
*Skinning knife, knife sharpener, gambrel, fur comb, scraping board, scraper, stretchers and latex gloves. (page 33)*

