

KC63 Barrel Mole Trap (Duffus)

Originating in Scotland, the Duffus or Barrel trap is a tried and tested break-back trap for the control of Moles (*Talpa Europaea*). A dual-action device, the trap is capable of catching two moles at a time. It is very discreet being totally buried and thus out of view. The provisions of the Animal Welfare Act 2006 must be considered prior to trapping.

SETTING THE TRAP

- Set one side of the trap at a time. Holding the trap, allow the setting pin (1) to hang freely
- Push the loop (2) through the plate and hold down. Be careful not to leave your fingers in the loop once pushed down, as accidental triggering will be painful
- Hook the setting pin (1) onto the top of the release bar (3)
- Release your grip slowly, ensuring that the pin stays hooked onto the release bar
- One side of the trap is now set
- Repeat the procedure for the other side of the trap. Again, be careful not to trigger the release bar of the set side, as this can have painful consequences!
- When both sides are set, hold the trap by the outside of the metal plate only

LAYING THE TRAP

- Locate the mole's tunnel with a mole bar or pointed stout stick. The tunnel is usually in between two mole hills. Probe the ground with the stick until it 'gives' slightly - several attempts may be necessary. Do not set the trap in a mole hill
- Carefully dig out a section of earth to expose the tunnel, lay the trap in line with the 'run'. It may be necessary to clear the tunnel mouth each side of the hole, Remove any loose earth that could interfere with the trap's action
- Gently re-fill the hole with the excavated earth, but do not firm it down
- Mark the location of the trap on a map, or on the ground with a stick or small mark of spray paint (or similar) - many traps are not retrieved when they cannot be found.
- Check trap daily

TIP OF THE TRADE

Moles have a keen sense of smell, so can detect human interference of their habitat. When the traps are new, leave them outside for a few days to 'weather' when setting the traps, and rub a little soil onto your fingers to mask any human odours that may deter the mole.

