Rodent traps

Field of the Invention

The present invention concerns rodent traps. More particularly, but not exclusively, the invention concerns rodent traps comprising a kill mechanism arranged to kill a rodent, and a storage area into which a rodent corpse passes after the rodent has been killed by the kill mechanism.

Background of the Invention

It is common for rodent traps to be checked only periodically, for example monthly. A downside of this is that rodents that have been caught can remain in the trap for a long period before being removed. This reduces the rate at which rodents can be caught by the trap, as until a rodent corpse has been removed and the trap reset, no further rodents will be caught. In addition, in the period before the rodent corpse is removed it can decompose, causing hygiene and odour issues.

The present invention seeks to provide a rodent trap that solved or mitigated some or all of the above-mentioned problems. Alternatively and/or additionally, the present invention seeks to provide an improved rodent trap.

Summary of the Invention

In accordance with a first aspect of the invention there is provided a rodent trap comprising:

a trigger arranged to be triggered by a rodent;

a kill mechanism arranged to kill a rodent in response to the trigger being triggered by the rodent, the kill mechanism comprising a shroud, and being arranged to kill a rodent when the head of the rodent is within the space formed by the shroud;

being killed by the kill mechanism. In this case, preferably the trapdoor is arranged to be opened by the weight of a rodent corpse upon the trapdoor.

The kill mechanism may comprise a compressed-air powered bolt. The compressed-air powered bolt may be self-resetting.

Alternatively, the kill mechanism may comprise: a capture arm, wherein the capture arm is biased from an armed position to a triggered position; a latch arranged to hold the capture arm in the armed position; wherein the trigger is arranged, when triggered by a rodent, to release the latch so that the capture arm moves from the armed position to the triggered position to kill the rodent by exerting a force on the rodent. The kill mechanism may be a standard “snap” trap, and may be replaceable. Preferably, the reset mechanism is arranged to return the capture arm to the armed position after a rodent has been killed by the capture arm. This releases the rodent corpse from the capture arm so that it can fall through trapdoor, for example. Advantageously, the trapdoor comprises a latch mechanism arranged to keep the trapdoor closed, and wherein the reset mechanism is arranged to release the latch mechanism as the capture arm is returned to the armed position. In this way, the reset mechanism performs both tasks of resetting the kill mechanism and allowing the trapdoor to open. Preferably, the reset mechanism is arranged to engage the latch mechanism after the capture arm has returned to the armed position. Advantageously, the capture arm moves in a plane parallel to the trapdoor mechanism. The kill mechanism may be a snap trap that is mounted on its side. This prevents the trigger of the kill mechanism from being beneath the rodent corpse, which could prevent the rodent corpse falling through the trapdoor.

The trap door may be positioned to a side of the kill mechanism, and the rodent trap arranged to push the rodent corpse through the trapdoor into the storage area following being killed by the kill mechanism. In this case, advantageously the kill mechanism comprises an impactor to strike the rodent to kill it, and be further arranged to push the rodent corpse through the trapdoor into the storage area using the impactor.

~~Advantageously, the kill mechanism comprises a shroud, and is arranged to kill a rodent when the head of the rodent is within the space formed by the shroud.~~