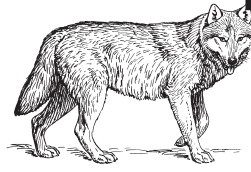


# Wolf Trapping in Open, Windy Country



with **Anthony Edwards**

*Editor's Note:* I had the pleasure of interviewing Anaktuvuk Pass trapper Anthony Edwards recently about his preferred wolf set for windy, open country. Anaktuvuk Pass is 30 miles north of tree line in the Brooks Range on the divide between the Anaktuvuk River and the John River, located at an elevation of 2,200 feet.

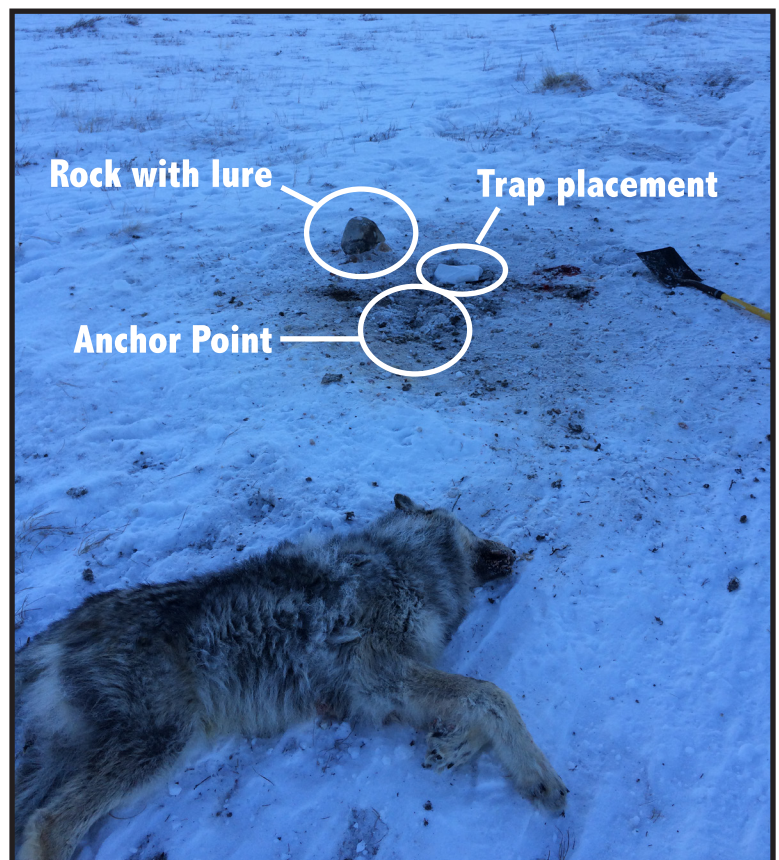
Anthony Edwards has been trapping around Anaktuvuk Pass, Alaska for the last 13 years. Edwards was taught about trapping by guys like Mark Morry, Kenny Mekiana, Ben Hopson, Jim Masek and Al Barrette, but this pee post set for wolf trapping was passed down from a village elder named Thomas Rulland. Rulland ran long traplines from Anaktuvuk to Kotzebue and Anaktuvuk to Ambler even before snowmachines were an option for transportation.

The idea of this set is to make a rock pee post along your trail when you're travelling through wide-open country. These areas may seem like they don't have a lot of potential because there is nowhere to anchor a trap. The rock can be anywhere in size between a grapefruit to a bowling ball, but should be large enough that wind-blown snow won't likely cover it up completely.

The set is simple to build. The rock is placed approximately 24" off the trail and the trap is bedded with the hinges of the jaws facing perpendicular to the trail between 12" and 18" from the rock. Wolves don't generally travel at hard right angles to the trail and this placement ensures a solid catch squarely around the foot as they come in from a softer angle off the trail.

## Gear

You'll need to use a pickaxe or similar tool to dig down about 6" into the terrain in order to make your anchor, which will consist of cabin spikes and ice. A wolf can destroy a trap quickly if it has something hard to bang the trap against. Thus, you should make sure that your anchor point is far enough away from the rock pee post that a wolf isn't able to bang the trap against the rock. Once you've dug your hole and driven a couple of 12" cabin spikes into it, use snow and water to bed that anchor. Once in place, stomp and stomp and stomp until it's firmly secure in the ground. Using a three-prong garden tool to rough up the area after you've finished bedding your trap and setting your anchor really makes for an inviting set. Any good wolf trap can be used for this set, but Edwards prefers an Alaska #9 or Newhouse #4½. In either case, make sure your pan tension is set high enough that the trap won't fire for non-target species like fox.



# Calendar of Events

## February:

- 7 - Interior ATA Meeting, 7 pm  
Dog Musers Hall
- 14 - SCCATA Meeting, 7 pm  
Dog Musher Hall on Tudor
- 20 - Deadline for Fur Rondy Submissions
- 22 - Kenai ATA Meeting, 6:30 pm, Soldotna Elk's Lodge
- 25 - Fur Rondy Fur Auction
- 26 - Alaska State Hide and Horn Auction

## March:

- 4 - Fur Rondy Fur Auction
- 7 - Interior ATA Meeting, 7 pm  
Dog Musers Hall
- 14 - SCCATA Meeting, 7 pm  
Dog Musher Hall on Tudor
- 18 - Interior ATA Fling
- 18 - Interior ATA Fur Auction
- 19 - Interior ATA Fur Auction
- 30-31 - Great Alaska Sportsman's Show

## April:

- 1-2 - Great Alaska Sportsman's Show
- 11 - SCCATA End of the Season Potluck @  
Hillcrest Church of the Nazarene



## Lure

Edwards prefers to use domestic dog feces and urine as lure at the set. He collects these materials in Ziploc bags. At the site, he scatters a few pieces of feces around the front of the rock, and then smears some of the urine directly on the rock. Additionally, commercially-available beaver castor or any "K9 call" lure should be smeared directly on the rock.

This set is great for open country that might be otherwise overlooked on the trapline. Long, straight trail above tree line where wolves can see for a long way makes for the perfect set-up. Once a rock is added to your trail, the wolves will likely notice and may take anywhere from a few days to a few months to recognize it as a normal piece of the landscape. Once they do, your trap is there and waiting. Edwards caught five wolves from the same pack in a single season using this set. Other years, one wolf will be caught and the rest of the pack quickly learns to avoid odd-looking rocks. Overall, this set has proven to be very productive and will hopefully help out some trappers looking for a new approach to catching wolves in open country.

