

CAMERA TRAP INSTALLATION



INTRODUCTION

This is a guide to installing and using wildlife camera traps effectively. Wildlife camera traps provide a non-invasive way to capture photos and video to study and learn more about our wildlife neighbors. Installing these cameras correctly is an important step to getting great results.



WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

- Camera
- Lock
- Key to the lock
- SD Card
- Batteries (*remember to bring extra batteries*)
- Laptop to confirm camera works
- SD card reader (*if your laptop doesn't have a SD card slot*)
- Informational Index Card (*Contact your program coordinator*)
- *Optional: Flagging to mark equipment*



Hello! We are monitoring our local wildlife neighbors for a UConn Natural Resources Conservation Academy (NRCA) project (nrca.uconn.edu). Please do not disturb or remove this wildlife camera trap.

If you need to contact us, kindly reach out to the UConn NRCA office at:

- Phone: 860-486-4917
- Email: nrca@uconn.edu
- Mail: 1376 Storrs Rd Unit 4087, Storrs, CT 06269



BEFORE INSTALLING:

- Obtain permission from the property owner/manager to temporarily install the camera. Provide as much information about the project and camera location(s) as possible.
- Test the camera inside and set it to the preferred parameter options.
- Check and ensure camera battery life is full. If not, replace old ones with new AA batteries (most cameras can use a minimum of 4 batteries to operate).
- Insert SD card into the slot.
- Move the power switch to the SETUP position. **NOTE:** *Always move the power switch from OFF to SETUP mode, not from ON to SETUP mode.*
- Adjust the settings to your desired settings. On the next page are some potential settings to consider (i.e. date, time, audio/video settings).

PARAMETER	SETTINGS	BEST OPTION
Set Clock	Set	Set
Mode	Camera or Video	Hybrid or Video
Image Size	HD Pixel vs 4K Pixel vs 16M Pixel	HD Pixel
Capture Numebr	1 Photo vs 2 Photo vs 3 Photo	3 Photos
Video Size	1280*720 vs 640*360	1280*720
Video Length	10s vs 5s vs 15s	10s
Interval	1s vs 5s	1s
Sensor Level	Auto, Low, Normal, High	Auto
Time Stamp	On vs Off	On
Video Sound	On vs Off	On

We recommend these settings to ensure that the best videos and pictures taken for the best possible results

INSTALLING CAMERAS:

- When looking for an area to install your wildlife camera at your site, consider environmental features that might facilitate wildlife use (e.g., human or game trails [e.g., wildlife paths], water bodies or areas with specific food resources). This may vary depending on the species or types of animals you are interested in monitoring.
- Avoid setting up on thin trees as they may sway during heavy wind and disrupt the motion sensors.
- Attach the camera to a tree approximately 1.5 to 2 feet above the ground (between shin to knee height). It should be facing straight forward, not tilting upwards or downwards. You can add a sturdy stick behind the camera to make sure the camera is not tilted (see figure below).



- Consider positioning the camera to get a wide view of the path that you think animals might travel.
- Hold the camera steady at desired level and secure the strap around the tree tightly.
- Insert the cable lock around the tree through the holes behind the camera and secure it by placing the end of the cable into the lock with the key. Test to make sure it's locked and secure.



- Clear the immediate surroundings of leaves, branches, twigs that are in front of the camera so that they do not interfere with the resulting pictures or trigger the camera when wildlife is not present (e.g., push tall grass down because swaying grass in the wind could trigger the camera).
- Move the power switch to the ON position
- Test to make sure the camera is working and in a good position. Confirm that the red light is blinking as you do a funny dance in front of it and check the SD card to make sure photos were recorded.
- Zip-tie the informational index card to the camera strap.

AFTER INSTALLING CAMERAS (MAINTENANCE):

- After installation, allow a week or so to go by without disturbing the trap to allow for regular wildlife activity to resume. Then, regularly check the camera trap (e.g. every 2 weeks) to make sure it's working and the batteries are still good.

***For any questions, please contact your Program Coordinator
(see their contact at nrca.uconn.edu)***