

REHOUSING YOUR BRUSH TAIL POSSUM BY CONSTRUCTING A POSSUM BOX

Select a suitable hollow log from your wood heap. These will vary in shape but must have an inner hollow that a reasonable sized cat could curl up comfortably in, approximately 300mm wide. Trim the ends off level with a saw so that you can screw on weather proofing ends.

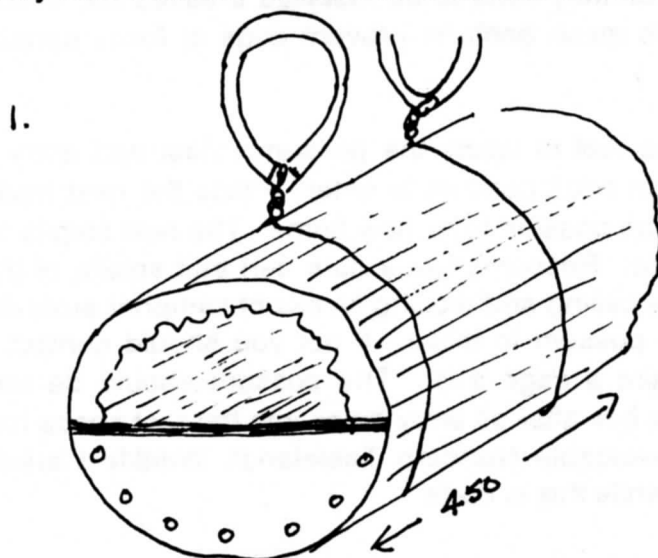
Find two pieces of waste hardwood large enough to cover the trimmed ends of your hollow log (builders off cuts are excellent for this) and trim them to a reasonable fit with your saw.

Cut an entry hole 120-150 mm wide in one of the end pieces. If you don't have a jigsaw you may need to cut this piece of wood in half before fashioning the entry hole. Screw the ends firmly onto the log using pre-drilled holes. I avoid nailing because it is very easy to split the log that took me so long to find and lug home.

Wind a couple of wire ties around the log to stop it splitting and tension them carefully. Leave the ends long as these are now twisted together and covered with a piece of old garden hose to fashion a long loop with a hook on the end.

Fix the box firmly in place with the plastic covered loops by hooking the ends under the tension twists. A good site is 2-3 meters above ground either up a tree or under eaves with a climbing branch installed. Place a piece of apple or banana in the box to attract the possum.

If a suitable hollow log is not available you can make the whole box out of hardwood off cuts and weather proof it with a scrap of roofing iron and a coat of water based outdoor wood sealer or linseed oil. A box 300 x 300 x 450 mm with an entry hole diameter of 150 mm would be ideal. See diagram 2.



BUDGET ACCOMADATION FOR POSSUMS

