

Board of Game Meeting – January 23, 2022

Ben Spiess and Joni Spiess

Narrative of Incident of Hunting Dog Killed in Trap

Our dog, Lola, was killed in a Conibear trap north of Anchorage on the Glenn Highway on February 7, 2021.

Trap was at the Crooked Creek trailhead at Mile 118.25 on the Glenn Highway near Glacier View, east of Chickaloon. This location is within the Mat-Su Borough.

Trap was set 40-50 feet off the trail and 50 yards from the trailhead (see location in attached map). This trap was legal and did not violate any laws or regulations.

The trap was a Conibear 330 trap (known as a body grip trap) (see photos) designed to kill large animals by strangling them or snapping their necks. Lola was killed right away.

These traps are legal in all parts of Alaska other than a handful of municipal areas, including this area. This trap was apparently set by a 'road trappers' who drive around Alaska's highways and trap near pulloffs (also legal).

Lola, a 45-pound husky-beagle mix, was my 13-year-old stepson Robert's dog. Lola, Robert and his mother, Joni, were on skis hunting Ptarmigan on the shoulder of Gunsight Mountain on the north side of the Highway. After 2 hours, they were returning to the truck when Lola left the trail.

The trap was placed under a spruce tree, baited with a caribou jaw and artificially scented with musk to attract animals. When an animal noses the bait, a pin is tripped clamping the jaws of the trap.

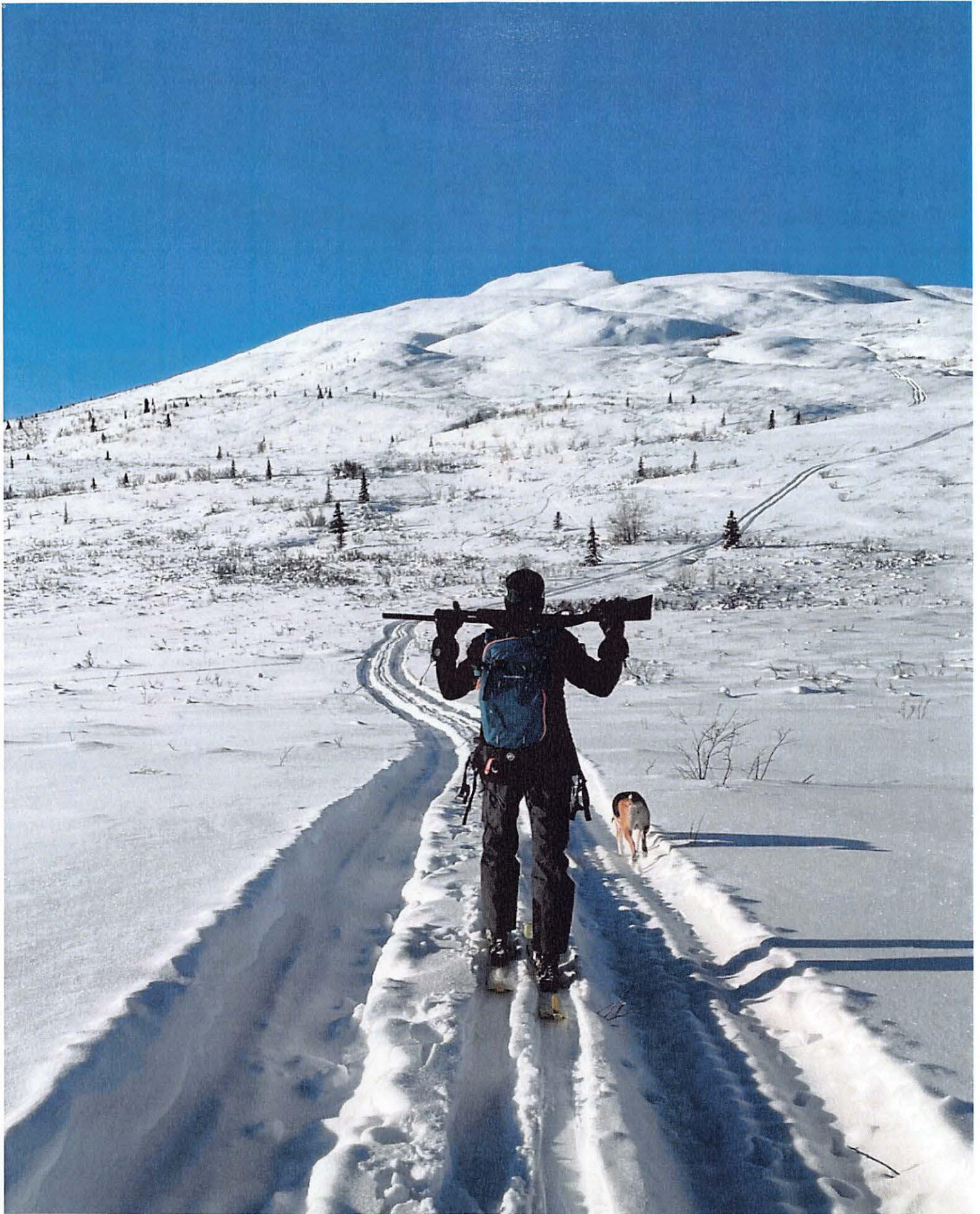
The jaws snapped shut on Lola's neck, and she yelped. Robert left the trail to help. He and Joni were unable to release the trap. Her neck was broken, and she was dead in 3-4 minutes.

Lola was not leashed at the time. Mat-Su Borough Regs require dogs to be "under restraint" within the Borough. See 24.05.070. This includes a leash but hunting or otherwise using a dog under voice control complies: Under the regulations Restraint includes: "competent voice control while actively engaged in an organized activity, which requires that an animal not be physically restrained, or in a form of recognized hunting which requires the use of an animal such as a retriever, or while actively mushing with or training sled dogs originating from a currently licensed mushing facility"

No regulations were broken in using this trap or in its location. Large size Conibear traps, all manner of snares, and leg hold traps are legal in Alaska in virtually all parts of the state. The exception are some restrictions in Municipalities such as Anchorage. There is no requirement that Trappers post or place signs regarding traps. Traps do not need to have serial numbers or identify the trapper.

RC 037





RC 037



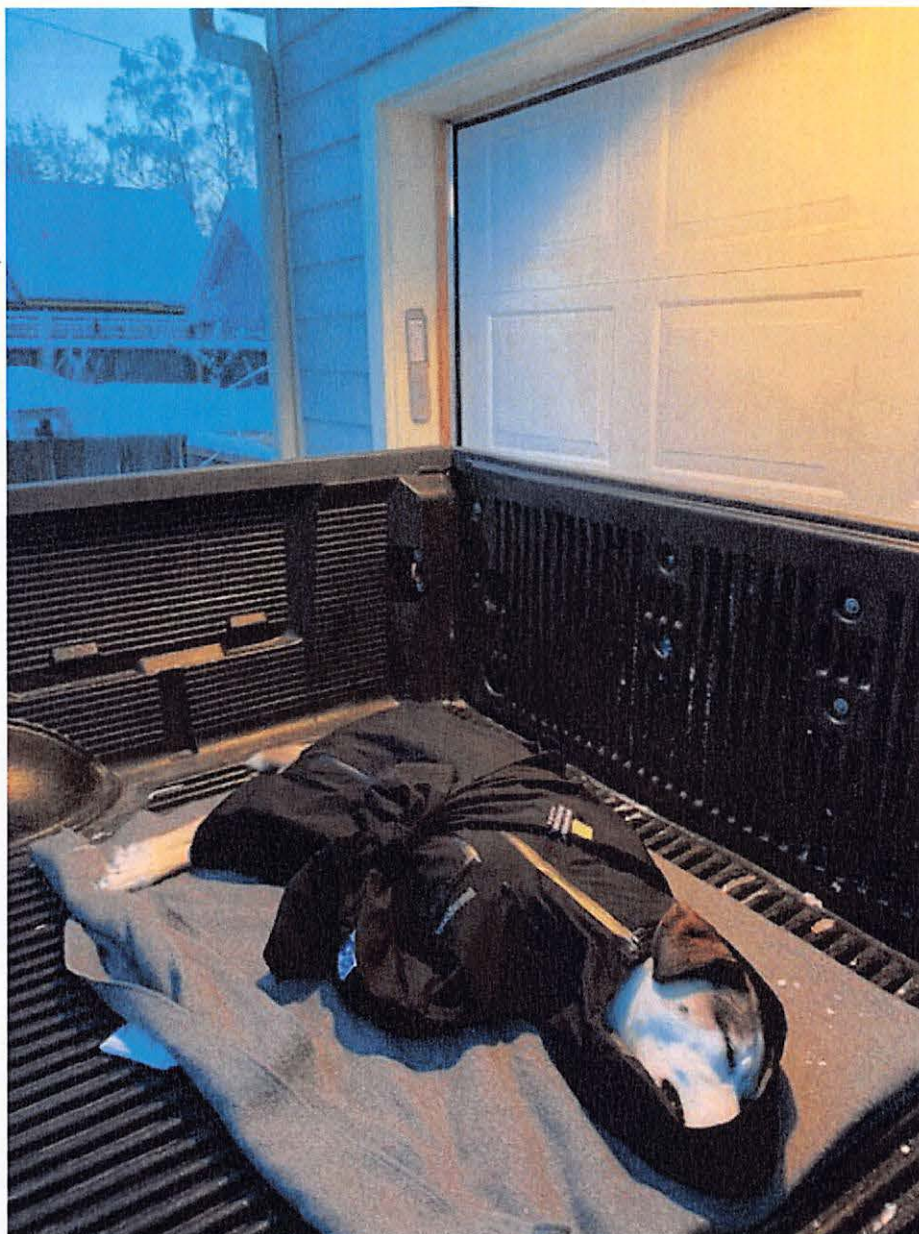
RC 037



RC 037

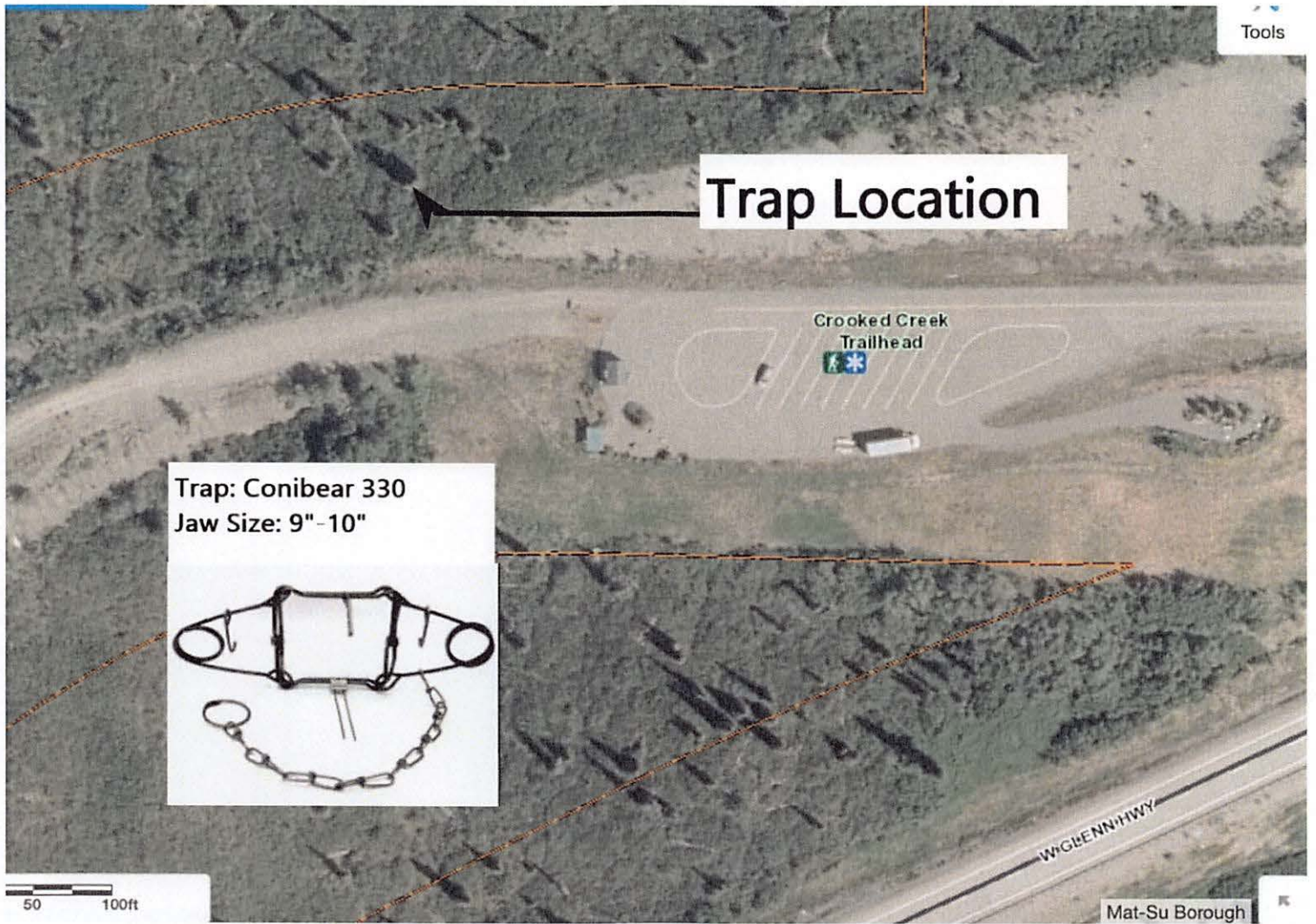


RC 037





RC 037



RC 037

