

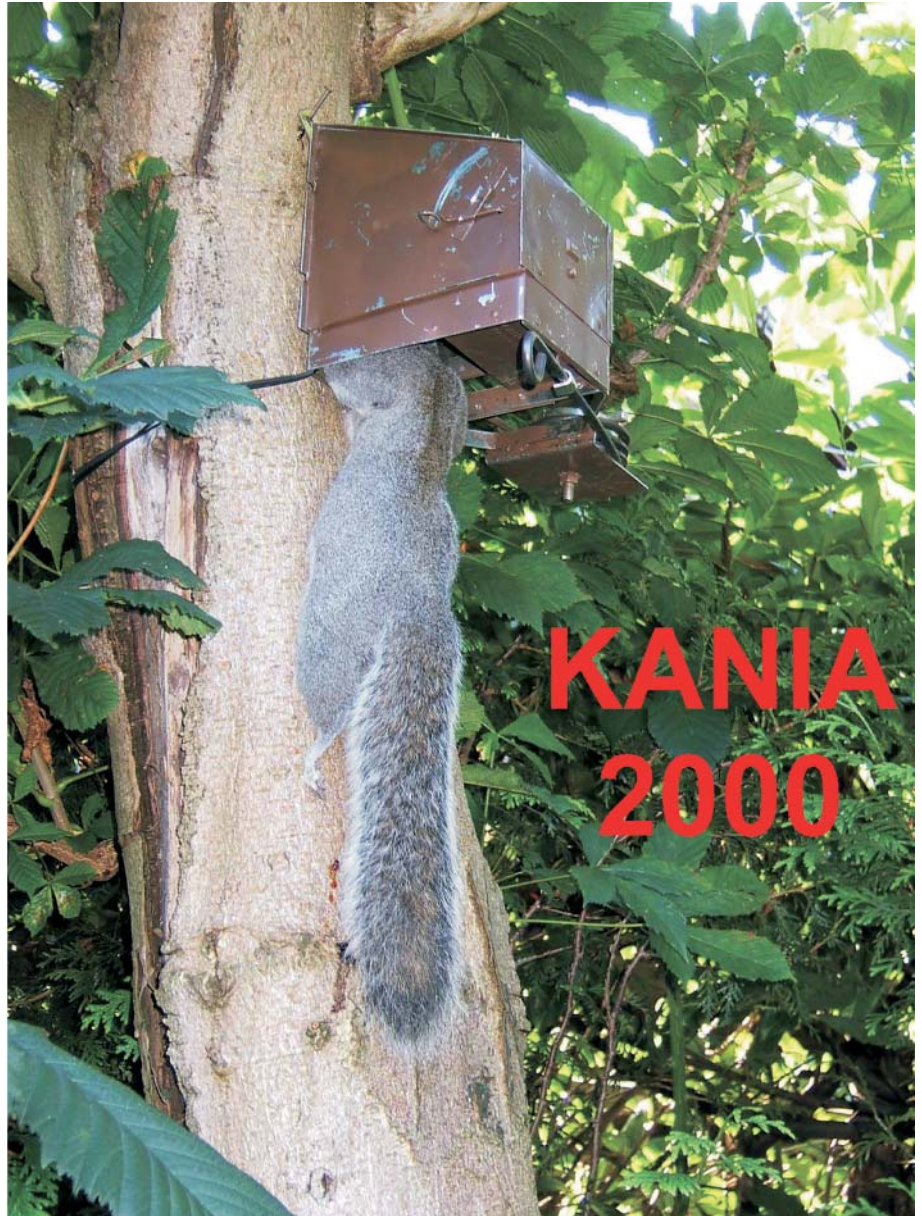
Feature

Spring loaded

Robin Tarrant of Magnum Traps gives some tips in grey squirrel trapping using the Kania2000 spring trap.

KANIA2000 TRAPS HAVE PROVED PARTICULARLY efficient for grey squirrels. Although not cheap, they are efficient and therefore economic, and are easy and safe to set. Here are some tips for their use:

- Before setting a killing spring trap like the Kania2000, make sure the site is totally safe.
- Do not trap grey squirrels with killing traps in areas where red squirrels live.
- Trap when food is scarce; it will be easier to tempt your target into the trap.
- Protect 'non-targets' from the trap including kids, pets and protected species, by for example mounting the trap on a tree. Record your risk assessment, so that if you do catch a 'non-target' and there is an investigation, you can demonstrate that you took reasonable precautions against such an eventuality.
- Try to set well off the ground (min three metres), on a straight trunk away from side branches.
- Restrict the entrance against non-targets.
- Avoid setting near public footpaths, at least out of sight.
- When nailing to a tree for support, avoid going through the bark, and always remove once trapping is finished. Put nails at a slight angle so that the loops slide down into the angle and the trap cannot be 'jumped' off by an enthusiastic squirrel or by the impact of its demise.
- Set traps on trees already used by squirrels as it cuts down pre-baiting time.
- To avoid spooking, pre-bait the unset trap until the squirrels use it as a permanent feeding station. Peanut butter is an excellent scent attractant.
- De-grease the new Kania2000 with soapy hot water, rinse, dry and spray with a coat of car touch-up paint which leaves no odour. A russet brown colour will camouflage it on a tree. It may need another spray from time to time.
- Beware of smells on your hands before trap setting. Perfumed soap, oil and cooking smells will make animals suspicious.



- Make sure the trap is stable; movement will scare an animal away.
- Always remove the trap from the tree before setting.
- When used on the ground, construct and camouflage the trap with local materials where possible. Make the trap inviting, by spreading dirt on and around it.
- Check traps at least once a day; several times in areas of serious infestation.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information on setting the Kania2000 trap, other traps available, and details of your local stockist, please contact Robin Tarrant at the Magnum Trap Company Ltd, on 023 8058 5421 or visit the company's website at www.magnumtraps.com