

Feral Hog Pullers

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Feral hogs are an invasive species found throughout the southern portion of the United States. Their impact on agricultural operations and the environment leads many landowners to seek management options for this non-native animal. Many tools are available to manage feral hogs, but due to this animal's damaging and invasive nature, many of the management strategies include lethal removal.

Depending on where the hog is when it is dispatched, there may be a need to move the carcass. Some examples include moving a carcass out of a trap, away from a feeder, or onto a trailer to go to a secondary location. When handling feral hog carcasses, managers should minimize contact by wearing gloves and avoiding contact with bodily fluids (blood, urine, etc.), as feral hogs can carry diseases and ectoparasites that can be transferred to humans. Creating a hog puller can reduce the amount of contact necessary to move a carcass, making the process cleaner and safer for managers. Additionally, this tool provides an easier grip and can eliminate the need for crouching typically associated with moving a heavy carcass that has short legs.

The supplies you will need to create a hog puller are as follows:

- ▶ 54 inches of 1/8-inch galvanized steel cable
- ▶ Three 1/8-inch double ferrules
- ▶ 6 inches of 1/2-inch PVC pipe



Double ferrules.

Recommended tools include:

- ▶ Cable cutters
- ▶ Swaging tool
- ▶ PVC pipe cutter (or saw)

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STEPS

1. Cut your cable to 54 inches and your PVC pipe to 6 inches. While measuring, mark the cable at 17 inches from one end and 4 inches from the other.



Step 1

2. Starting on the end with the 17-inch mark, thread a double ferrule onto the cable, followed by the PVC pipe. Slide the ferrule to the 17-inch mark, then slide the end of the cable through the other side of the ferrule, creating a loop around the PVC pipe.

*Pro tip: Keep the PVC pipe parallel to the cable until after it is clamped.



Step 2

3. Carefully line up the end of the cable with the end of the ferrule so they are flush. Use a swaging tool to tightly crimp the ferrule two to three times. Once crimped, the PVC pipe can be slid onto the cable to create a triangle-shaped handle.



Step 3



Part 1 complete



Part 2 complete



Final product

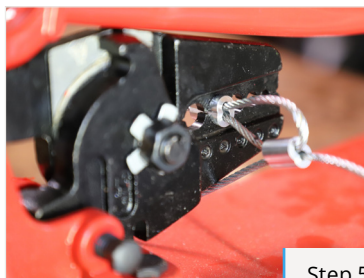
4. Slide on the remaining two ferrules at the other end of the cable. Place one ferrule halfway down the remaining cable and the other close to the 4-inch mark. Thread the end of the cable through the other side of the ferrule at the halfway point, then loop it through the ferrule at the 4-inch mark. The cable will make an "S" shape as it passes through the ferrules. See the diagram for more info.

*Pro tip: This step may be easier if the second ferrule is moved a few inches past the 4-inch mark. This will give more flexibility when making the smaller loop. Once the end of the cable is through the ferrule, the loop size can be adjusted so that only the last 4 inches of cable are used.



Step 4

5. On the small loop, carefully line up the end of the cable with the end of the ferrule so that they are flush. Use a swaging tool to tightly crimp the ferrule on the small 4-inch loop two to three times. **Only the ferrule on the small loop will be crimped.** The ferrule of the large loop needs to slide.



Step 5

To use the hog puller, simply loop the noose over the back foot of the hog carcass and pull. The PVC pipe handle allows for a better grip while pulling the carcass over rough terrain, and the cable allows managers to maintain a bit of distance from the carcass while reducing the need to crouch as they pull. These pullers can also be used with a variety of other large game animals and exotics.



Photo credit: Luke Farris and Hudson Goldberg

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