

Mighty Thor: Trap Line Dog - Continued from page 30

Luckily, Thor is also a wonderful poop finder. Since I have been letting Thor out of the truck at stops, he has often shown me poop in the grass between the ruts, as well as poop well off the road. I would have missed these micro locations had Thor not shown them to me. I'm now starting to catch on to where these spots are too. In this way, Thor has really made me a better trapper.

Thor rides with me in my truck, or more often, runs in front of my Polaris Ranger. Many times, Thor has gotten excited and sniffed

the ground while we are driving. I have learned to stop and let him smell around for few minutes. Sometimes Thor is just interested in something I don't understand. But more often than not, he goes right to a spot beside the road and starts sniffing around. Then, he will lift his leg and mark a tuft or grass or stump. That is Thor language for, "Put a trap right here, Daddy."

There is one added benefit of taking a trap line dog along. I believe the scent of the dog puts coyotes more at ease around my

sets. I trap some of the most paranoid coyotes anywhere. After a rare snowfall last year, I saw where one coyote went 10 yards out of its way to avoid what I thought was a well blended-in flat set.

Since taking Thor with me, I rarely see this sort of trap avoidance. Thor walks around leaving his scent and making inviting tracks in the dirt around my sets. By the time the coyote gets to my set, he has smelled Thor, seen his tracks and is just relaxed enough to maybe work my set. I think his dog scent helps take the edge off

the human scent I leave as I make my sets. While I don't have scientific evidence of this, it makes perfect sense to me.

Plus, while I make my sets now, I keep an eye on Thor. Of course, he pees on anything he deems worthy. You can't get any fresher pee near your set. Often after I make my original set, I set a trap where he shows interest and pees also. I would tell you whose set outperforms, but it would be just too hard on this old trapper's ego.

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