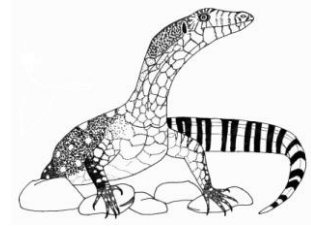


# Monitor Cameras

[www.monitorcameras.com.au](http://www.monitorcameras.com.au)



## Wildlife Camera Box Design

### Design

The first version of the camera box was originally built to house an infrared webcam and small lead acid battery. The battery life proved rather short (2-3 nights), so this approach was not pursued. Later, the box was adapted for use with one of the Scoutguard cameras (model SG 550).

A new box was designed for two reasons. First, the original box was rather heavy (10kg) and, since I tended to deploy the box at least 200m from any walking track, it was getting a bit cumbersome to carry into some areas I wanted to monitor. Secondly, I never managed to obtain any pictures of Agile Antechinus, even though they are quite common in our area. I thought that the interior of the box may have been too large for them to be comfortable entering.



**Figure 1:** First version of the camera box assembled for use. Note carry handle on side and access hole near one end. There is an identical access hole on the opposite side.

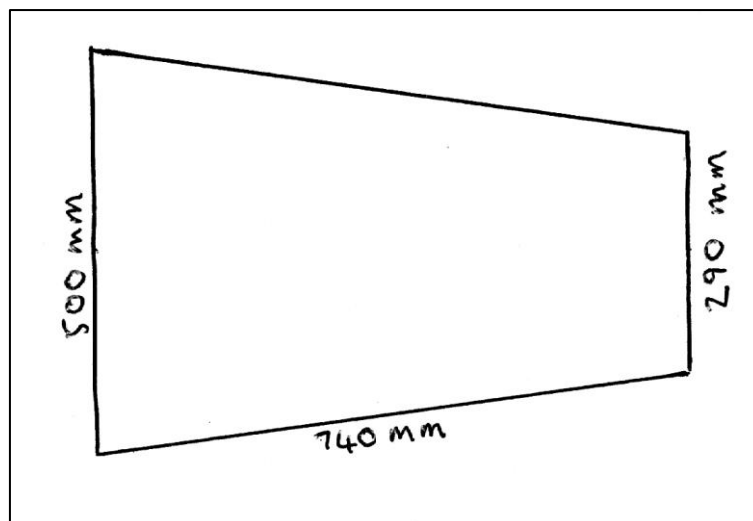
I made a second version of the box that was much smaller and lighter (only 3kg). I can carry it in a large backpack, which will make it much easier to deploy in some areas.



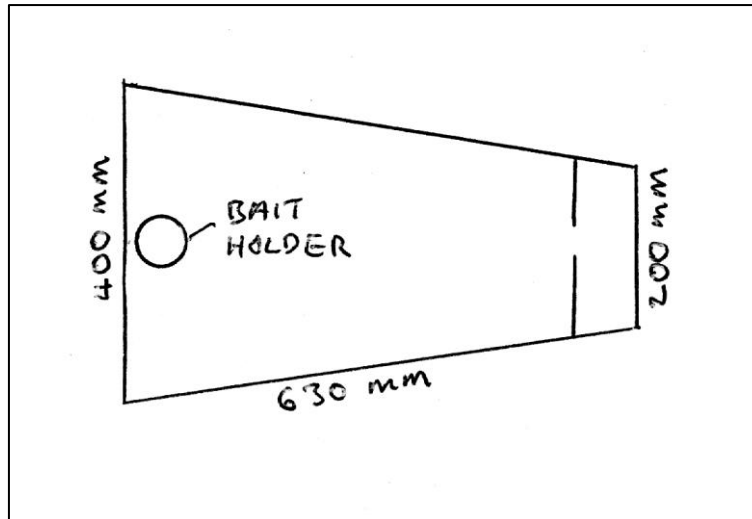
**Figure 2:** Second version of the camera box.

### Materials and Dimensions

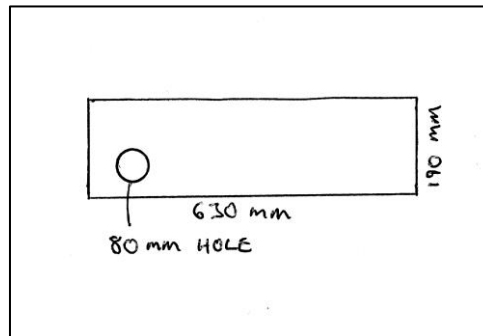
The box is made from 9mm marine ply and held together with screws. Dimensions are shown in the following figures.



**Figure 3:** Dimensions of camera box lid.



**Figure 4:** Dimensions of camera box, top view.



**Figure 5:** Dimensions of camera box, side view.

Once built, the box was painted using enamel paints of various colours. The interior of the box was painted using matt black to prevent light and infrared reflections. The end wall holding the bait was painted white to provide the best contrast when animals were photographed.

Rubber feet were added using 4 door stops. This keeps the base of the box off the ground to prevent rotting.



**Figure 6:** Rubber foot of box.

The camera is held in place within a small enclosure at one end using rubber padding and foam blocks.



**Figure 7:** Camera holder.



**Figure 7:** Camera holder with camera in place.

The bait holder is made from a short section of PVC pipe, with 2 end caps. One end cap is glued on, the other is removable. The removable cap has numerous 3-4mm holes drilled through it. The bait holder is held against the wall of the box using a pipe bracket and wing-nut bolt.



**Figure 9:** Bait holder.

The lid is held on using hooks and shock cord loops.



**Figure 10:** Camera box lid.



## Sample photos



