

# Its paw crushed, trapped tiger is dying

PHOTO COURTESY: FOREST DEPARTMENT



Before the rescue; (right) poachers' snare that got him.

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**T**HE tiger found in a poachers' snare outside Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve (TATR) last week is close to suffering renal failure and may not live, doctors said. The trap crushed its left paw, and the animal, even if it survives, will have to hobble in a cage for the rest of its life.

"His condition is deteriorating. He has been diagnosed with pre-renal failure. He has eaten very little in the past five days, and is on IV fluid," Dr N P Dakshinkar, head of the doctors' team, said.

"We removed two bones

from his paw. There is no blood supply to the paw," Dakshinkar said.

The main problem is renal failure, Dakshinkar said. "He remained trapped without water in scorching heat, leading to urea from the kidneys entering his blood."

Wildlife activists said an easy way to give tigers a chance against poachers is to dig multiple watering holes, giving them more choice and making it tough to set up snares. The three TATR tigers apparently had only one waterhole; two were trapped on April 26.

Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (Wildlife) S H W Naqvi said, "My officers say we have dug at least 11-12 waterholes in the area."

