

RACCOON CAGING REQUIREMENTS

GENERAL

When raccoons develop sufficient motor co-ordination, are fully furred and are eating solid foods (weaned), they should be placed in an outdoor cage for exercise and sunshine.

The cage, the bigger the better, should be at least a minimum of 8' x 8' x 6'. This basic cage will hold up to, but no more than 6 raccoons. The frame should be constructed of 2" x 3" or 2" x 4" construction/stud grade spruce. It is relatively simple to build the cage in five sections, and either bolt or nail them together. Bolting allows the cage to be quickly dismantled with little or no damage, and moved to another location.

The perimeter of the cage should be placed on cement or patio stones to prevent the raccoons from digging out. The centre of the cage can be either a cement slab or patio stones. This makes for good drainage and easy cleaning as most small messes can be hosed away from the raccoons.

CONSTRUCTION (FIGS. 1 - 7)

A suitable location to construct the cage would be behind or beside an existing building, or in a treed area where the full force of the wind or cold will be at a minimum. Avoid heavy cedar woods due to the large number of mosquitoes. A quite private area is best, where the raccoons will not be bothered by unnecessary road noises, frequent interruptions of passers-by or family pets. A roof or a tarp should be placed over the cage to protect the animals from the elements. It will also prevent snow from accumulating in the cage itself and thus making cleaning easier.

The area in which the cage is to be built must be level. Sand is an excellent leveling material. If you are using patio stones, 12 or 16 two foot square stones are required. (see Fig. 1)

Wire to secure the cage should be one or two inch square welded wire, 14 or 16 gauge, four foot widths, fastened with 7/8 inch galvanized poultry netting staples.

For detailed construction of the five cage sections, using 2" x 3" or 4" spruce, see figs. 2 - 7. To alleviate the possibility of rot, the bottom plate of each side of the cage should be pressure treated wood. An alternative to pressure treated wood is to use 1/2" wood shims to elevate the cage from the ground which also makes cleaning easier since a hose can be used to flush out debris. Three inch galvanized spiral nails are recommended for construction.

To support the roof , a 2" x 2" piece of wood must be nailed 3 1/2" from the top on each of the four sides. The length of the roof support should be at least six feet. (Figs. 2, 3 & 4)

THE DOOR

The door is constructed using 2" x 2" spruce as detailed in Fig. 5. If extra wire is available, both sides of the door should be covered with wire. This is a safety precaution and prevents the raccoons from chewing the door frame.

SLEEPING BOX

The sleeping box, illustrated in Fig. 7, can simply be made from readily available materials. Basically, it is a frame of 2" x 2" with 1/2" weatherproof plywood exterior. For winter occupancy, the walls, floor, and ceiling must be insulated with 1 1/2" Styrofoam sheets, which in turn are covered on the inside with 1/4" plywood. This is to prevent the raccoons from destroying and possibly eating the Styrofoam.

For ease of cleaning the roof is made to be removable. A 2" x 2" wood frame on the ceiling has the dual purpose of securing the roof and holding the insulation in place over the sleeping area. A 9" diameter hole allows the raccoon to enter the box. This hole should be covered with a flap of carpet to trap heat and shield the animals from wind.

A shelf built 3' to 4' off the ground, and large enough to support the sleeping box and a walkway, is secured at one end of the cage. Preferably this shelf should be placed at the opposite side of the cage from the door.(Fig. 6). This shelf is accessible to the raccoons by the way of branches or planks.

In addition to insulating the sleeping box (Fig. 7), other forms of protection against the weather are required when wintering the raccoons. These can take the form of a tarpaulin, plywood, chipboard, or any combination thereof. The roof, the sleeping end of the cage and the adjacent panels, should be enclosed for increased protection against the elements.

Finally, when young raccoons are first put into the outdoor cage, it is advisable to put a layer of hay, straw, or wood shavings over the concrete flooring to prevent injury should they fall from branches or the wire.

LIST OF MATERIALS

1. 36- 2" x 3" or 2" x 4" x 8' Spruce
2. 4 - 2" x 3" or 2" x 4" x 8' Spruce (pressure treated)
3. 6 - 2" x 2" x 8' Spruce
4. 1 - 1" x 4" x 8' Spruce
5. 1 - 1" x 3" x 8' Spruce
6. 1 - Wire 4' x 67'
7. 1 - Nails 3" spiral gal. 5 lb.
8. 1 - Pair of Hinges
9. 1 - Hook & Eye(spring loaded)
10. 1 - 4" Barrel Bolt
11. 2 - 4' x 8' Sheets of Plywood/underlay 1/2" (Sleeping box, shelf)
12. 1 - 4" x 4" x 12' Shelf support (sufficient for 3 cages)
13. 16 - 2" x 2" Patio Stones
14. 1 - Handles

PATIO STONE LAYOUT

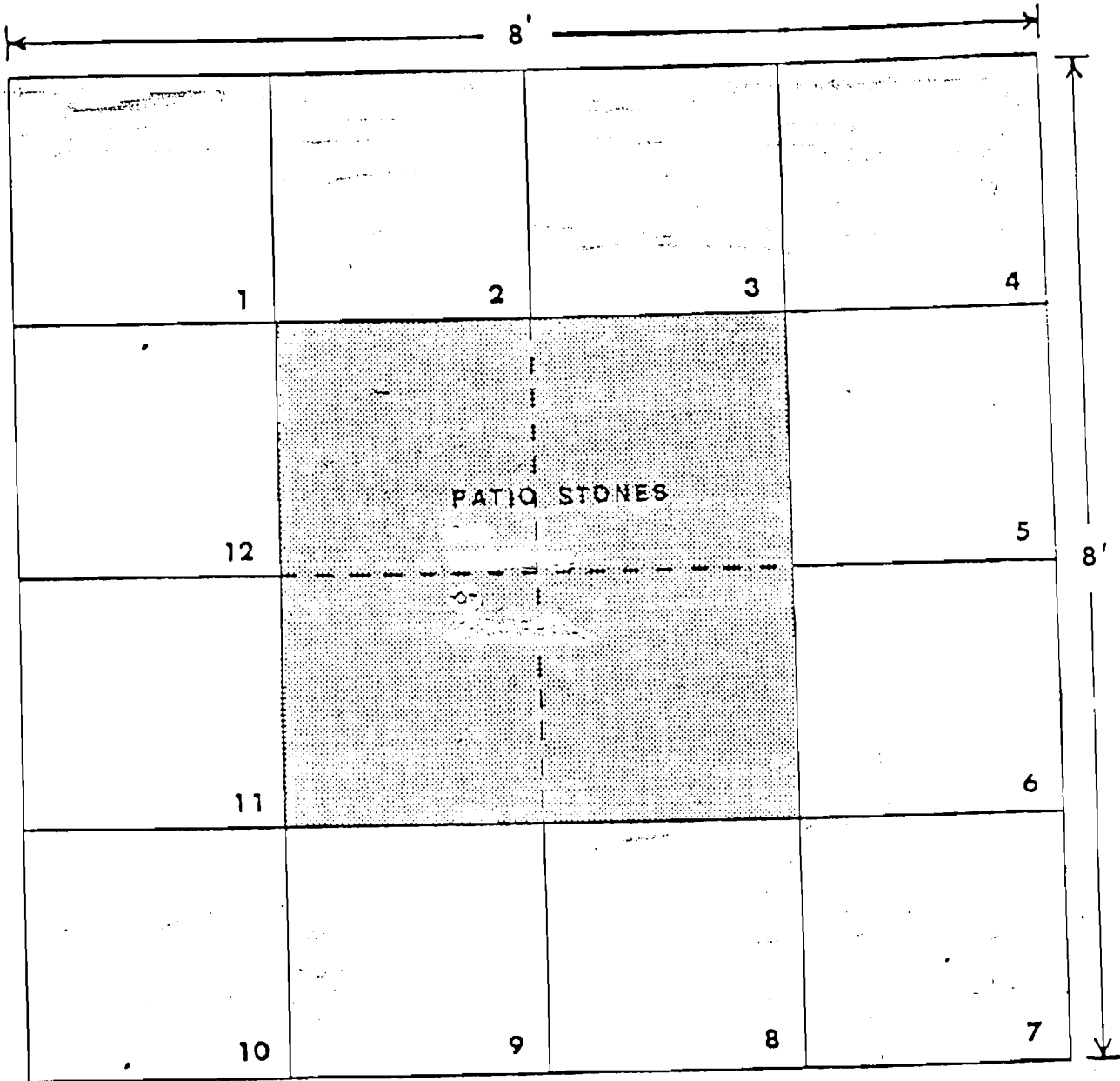


Fig 1

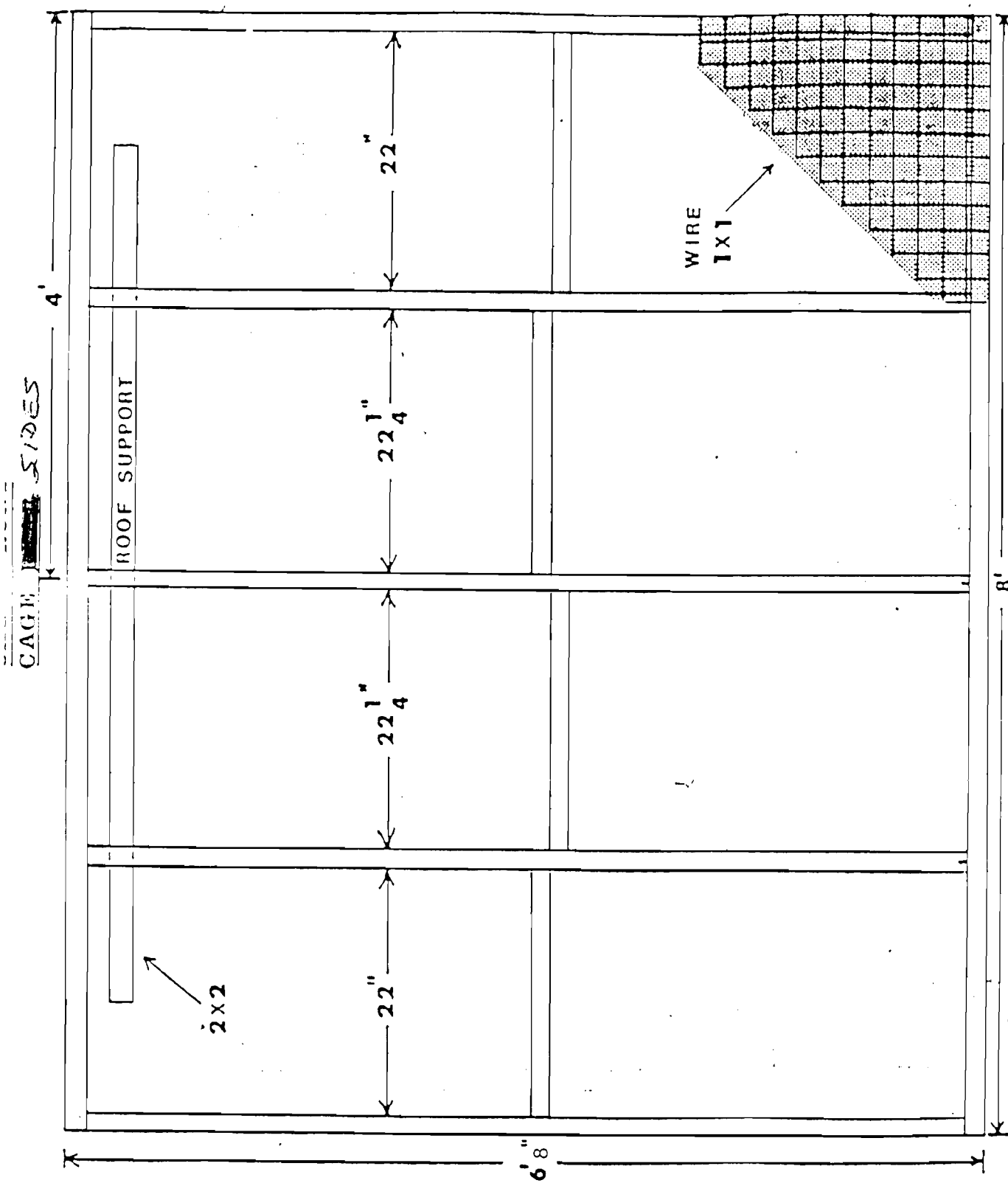


Fig 2

FRAME CONSTR -- 2x3 or 2x4

RIGHT
CAGW ~~SECRET~~

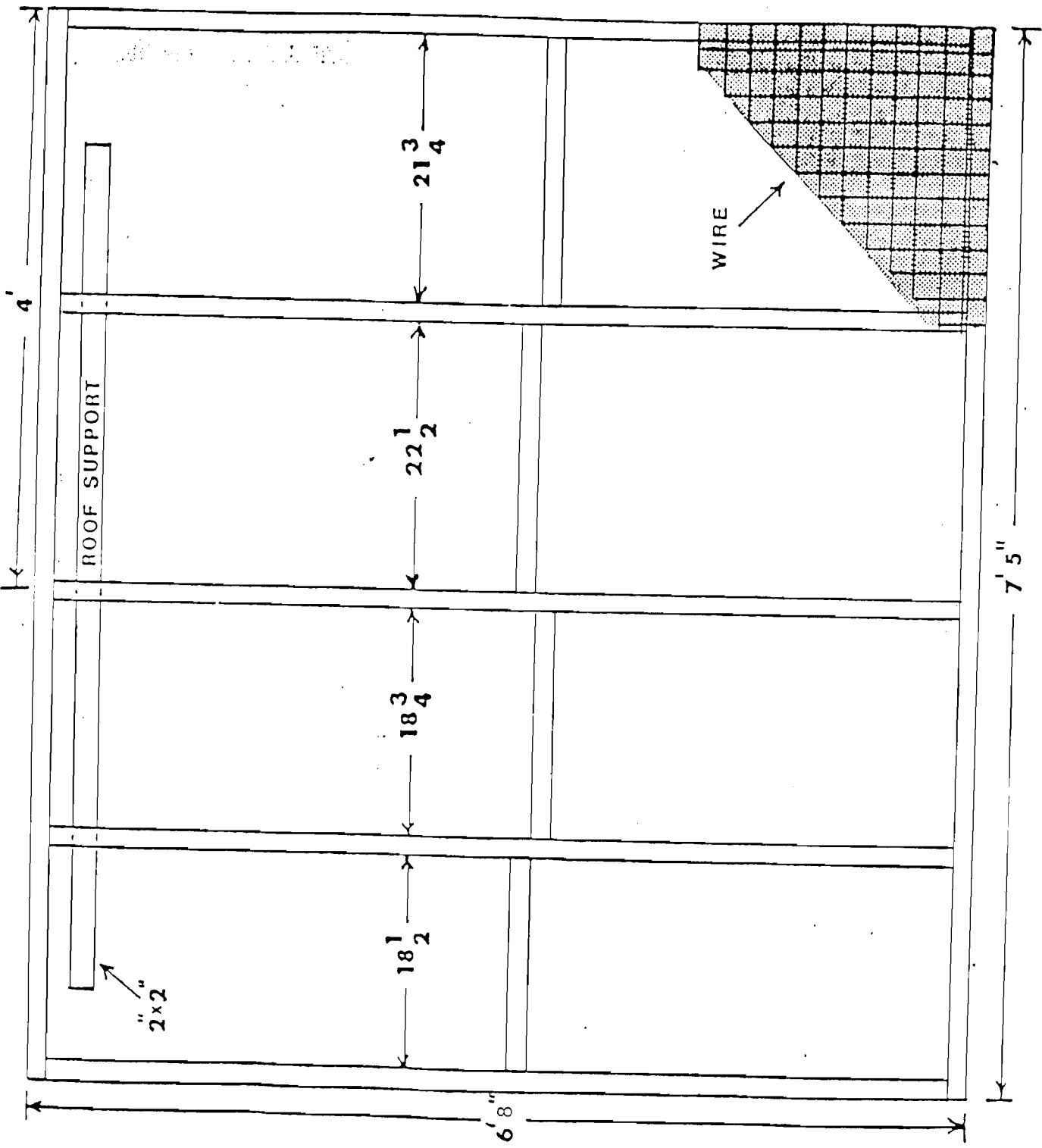


FIG 3

FRONT

CAGE DOOR

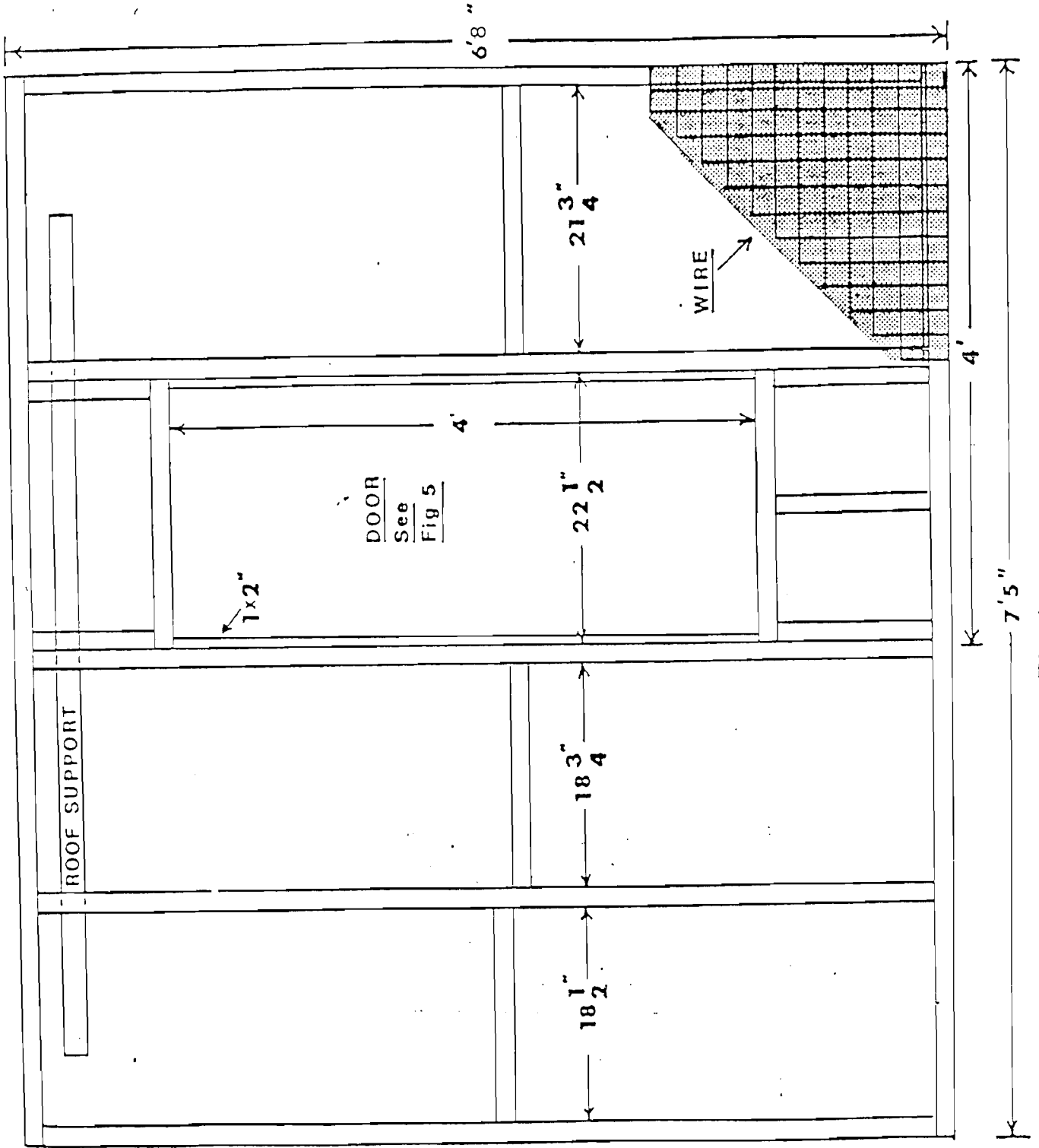
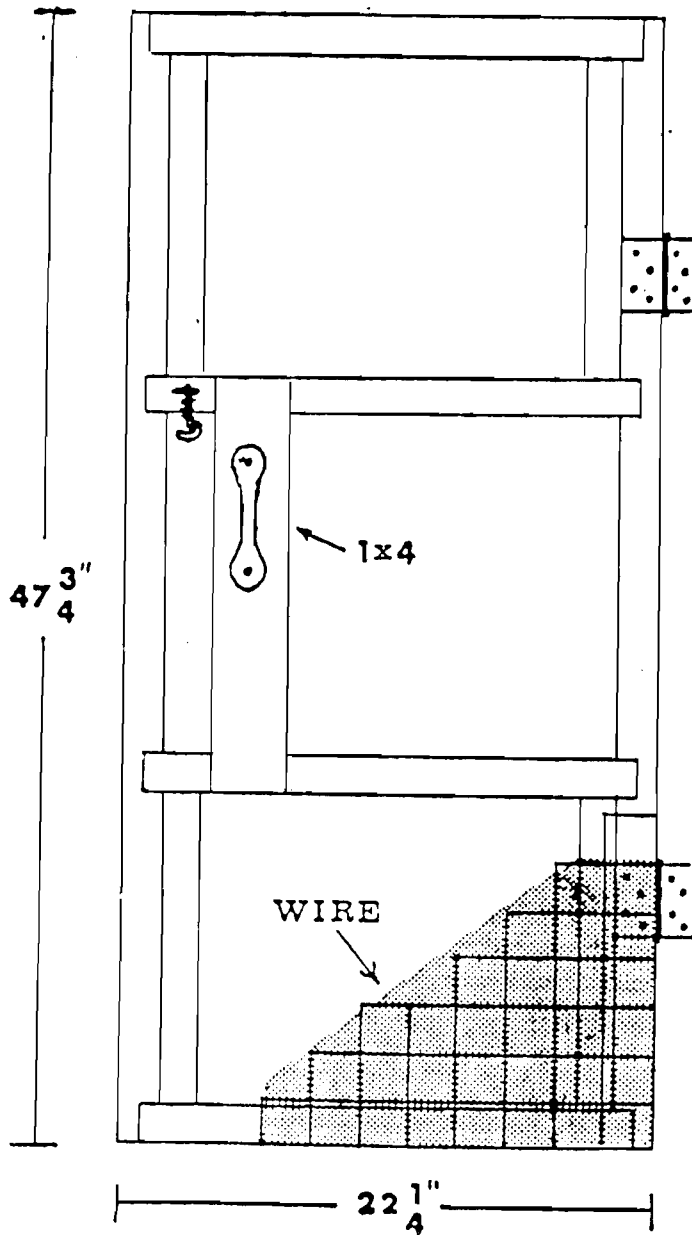


FIG 4

CAGE DOOR

FRAME 2x2"



HARDWARE

- Hinges (2)
- Spring Loaded Hook and Eye (Outside)
- Barrel Bolt (Inside)
- Door Pull

Fig 5

CAGE TOP

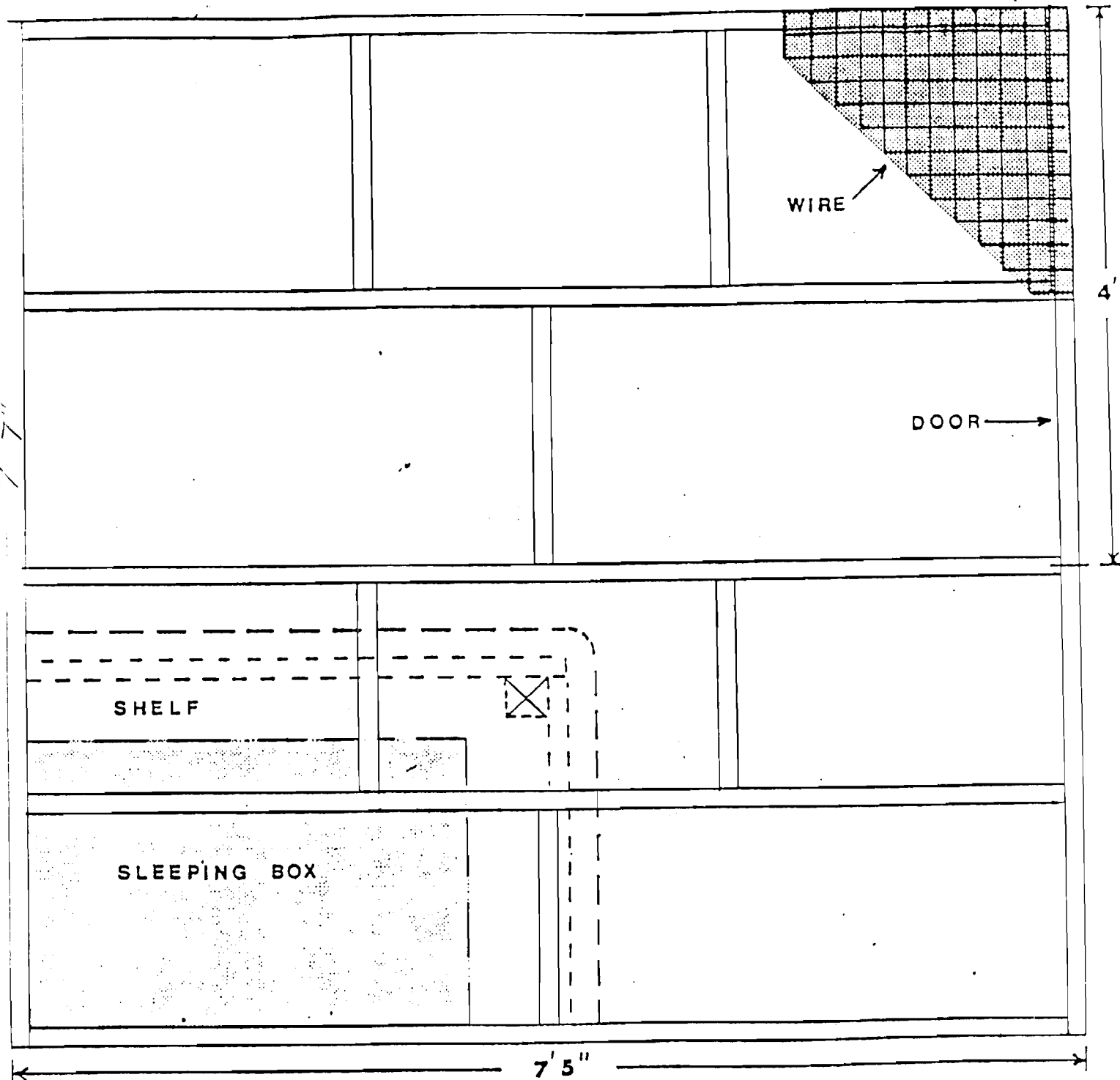
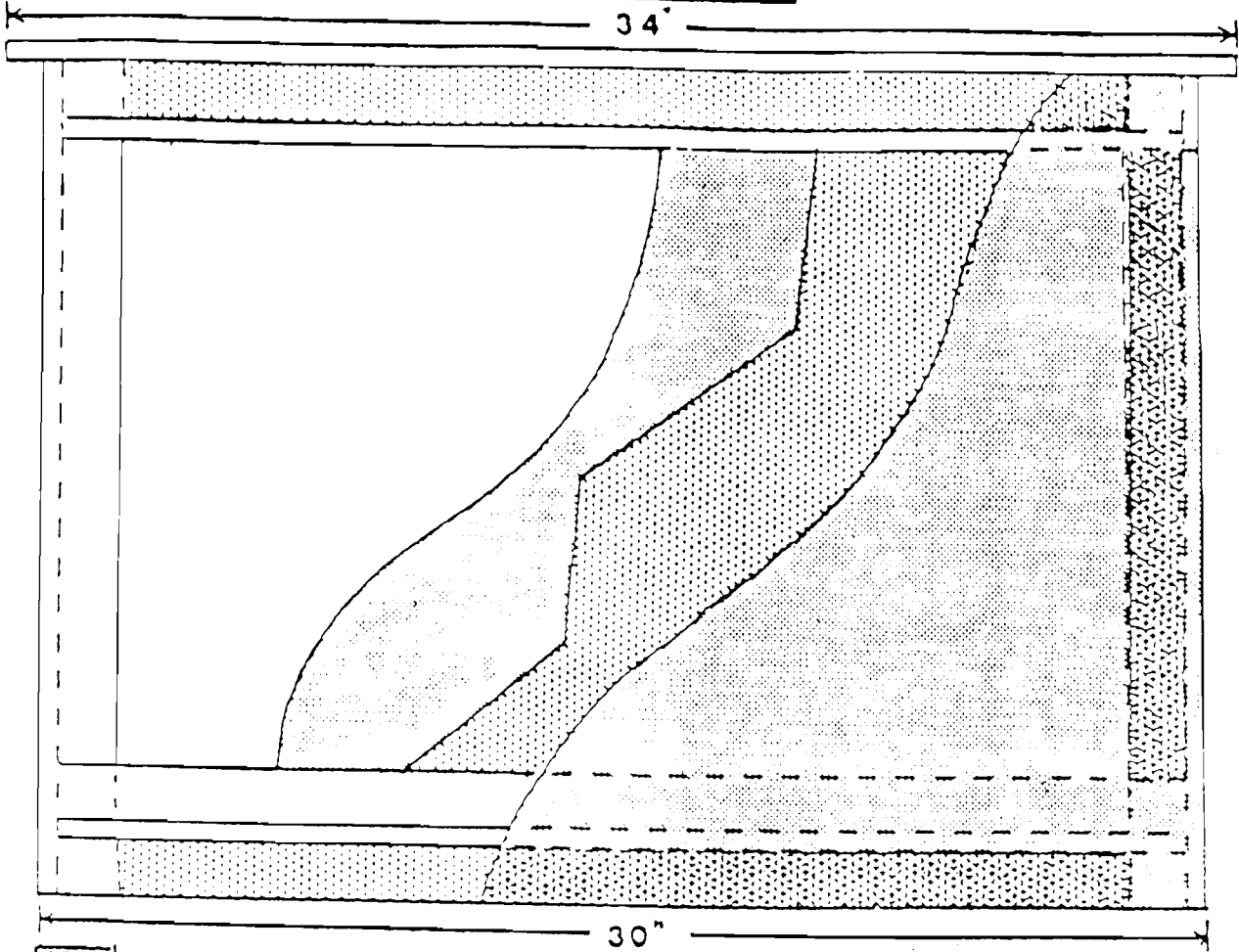

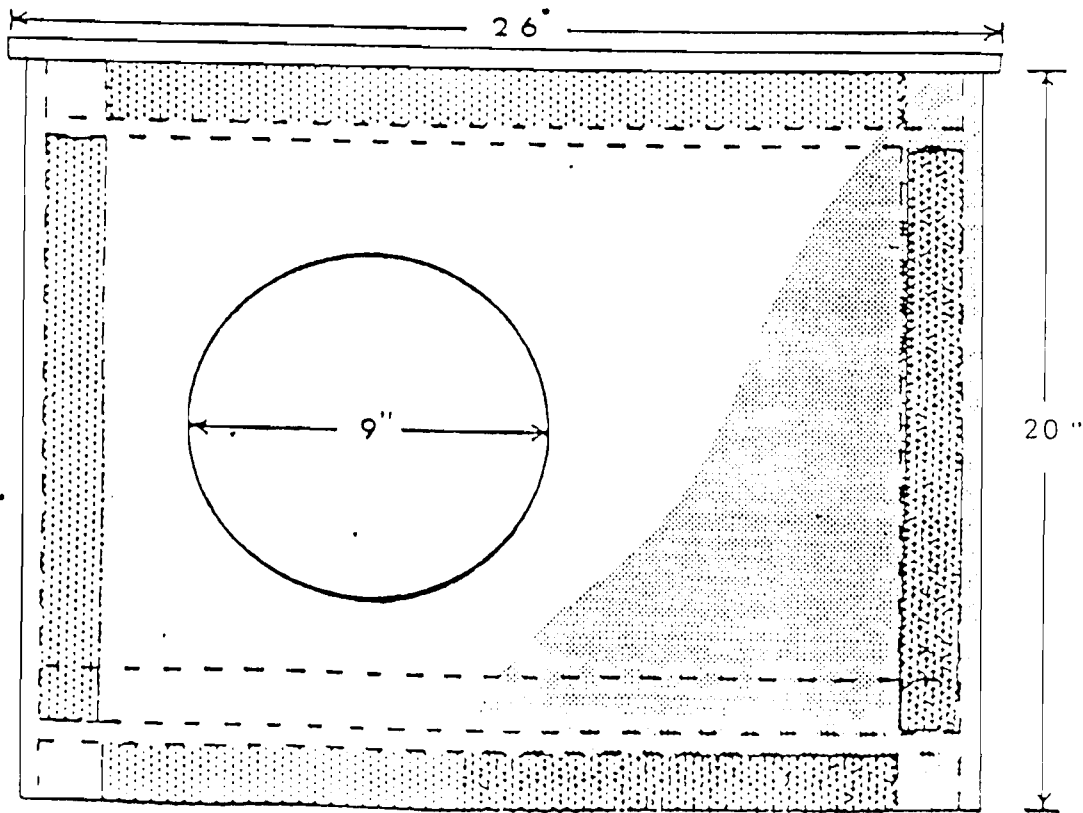


Fig 6

SLEEPING BOX



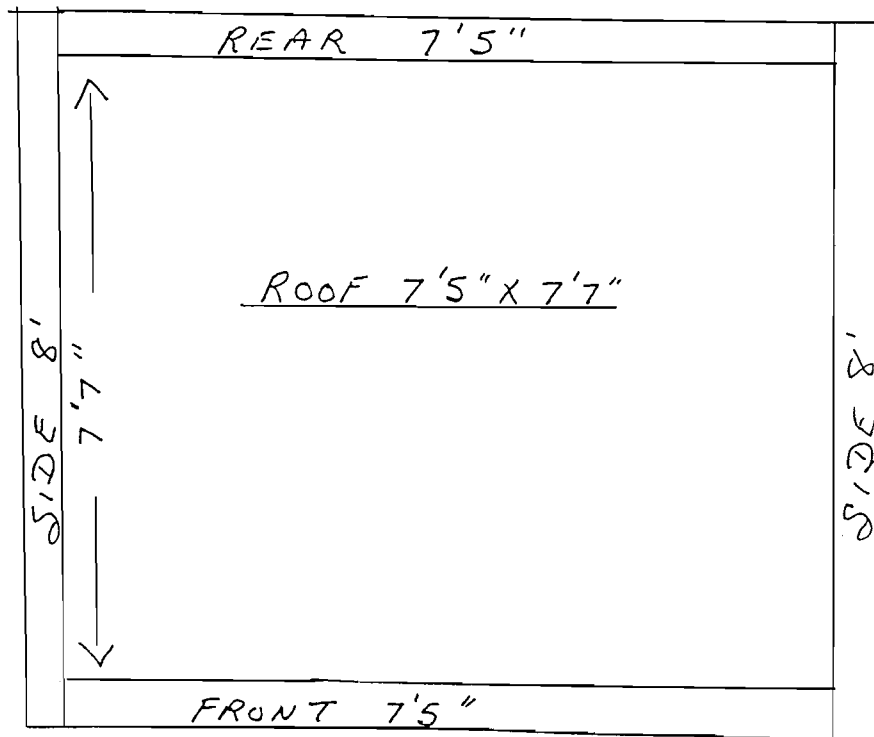
 - INSULATION (WINTER)

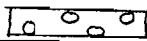


ERECTING THE RACCOON CAGE PANELS

TO ENSURE THE ROOF FITS PROPERLY, THE 4 SIDES MUST BE PUT TOGETHER AS FOLLOWS:

TOP-DOWN VIEW



YOU CAN USE 4" BRACKETS WHICH LOOK LIKE THIS  TO SCREW THE PANELS TOGETHER. IT ALSO MAKES IT EASIER TO DISMANTLE IT.