

Cuddeback Capture:  
Review By:  
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When thinking of the most popular trail cameras on the market today, one almost certainly will think about Cuddeback. These guys have become a household name in recent years. With constant television and print ads in nearly every major hunting publication, Cuddeback is doing something right. I myself have been a long-standing Cuddeback customer. Between my collection of cameras and that of my hunting club buddies, we deploy eight Cuddeback cameras into the deer woods every fall. I realize that Cuddeback is not the only trail camera on the market today, but I do believe they are one of the best.

Cuddeback Capture:

The most recent addition to the Cuddeback stable of spy cameras has been the Capture. This new model has been improved by leaps and bounds over its bulky, user-unfriendly cousins, like the Excite and the Excite IR.

The Earlier Days:

Certainly not the first Cuddeback model, but definitely one of the most popular, the Excite has been a hot seller for the company for years. My first camera was an Excite. Wouldn't you know it, I sent that first unit back to the manufacture within three days due to battery malfunction issues. With that said, I took delivery of a newly packaged unit just days later and I became very fond of that camera. Enough so, that I purchased a second Excite. What I loved about my Excite cameras were all of the things that make Cuddeback cameras so popular. Crazy fast trigger speed, crystal clear digital images and long, really, really long battery life. What I hated about my Excite cameras was the same things everyone else hated about them. A slow, clumsy set up process, complicated by a sequence of buttons to push and screen to navigate, all on top of the most ridiculous mounting system I have ever seen in a trail camera. The last thing that got under my skin was the price. The Excite was a bit salty for my taste at \$299 per unit.

New and Improved:

Now, I am happy to say that the folks at Cuddeback have outdone themselves. In 2008, Cuddeback introduced the Capture. In my eyes, the Capture is a vast improvement over the older clunky Excite models.

The Capture must be one of the most simple trail cameras on the planet. This thing takes literally ten seconds to set up and arm. It's so easy! Just insert the mini SD card, turn the

setting preference knot to your desired delay time. (30 seconds, 1 minute, 5 minutes or 10 minutes) and watch the countdown to “Armed”. The Capture also has vast improvements in mounting. The new unit comes with a very easy to use synch strap that is attached directly to the camera. I will say that they could make the fitting a bit more snug. On several occasions, I have had curious deer come up to inspect my cameras, only to have them bump the unit. This has provided me with some pretty funny lopsided photos. Either way, the mounting system makes it super easy to mount to just about any tree. This has certainly help to cut prep time more than in half.

The Capture model still has lightning fast trigger speed and un believable picture quality. Perhaps the greatest improvement the Capture possesses is the price. The new Capture has become much more reasonable and can be picked up at major retailers for just \$199. Cuddeback also makes an IR model, which is a bit more expensive.

My only suggestion for Cuddeback would be to make this unit a bit smaller. I mean, we almost need to hire a sherpa every year to help us deploy our eight units into the field. However; all in all, I have been more than happy with the new and improved Capture. Not only do they have great ad campaigns, but they make a really great product. I would certainly try one if I were you.

