

Trophy Preparation for Mounting and Shipping

You can't be too careful in handling your trophies.

1. Be careful not damage the fur or hair by dragging, ropes or cutting.
2. Remove as much blood as possible (if near water wash blood from fur and dry as much as possible.)
3. When ever possible, skin all large animals as soon as you can. (Taxidermist prefer to do the skinning if at all possible).
4. Before skinning there are a few measurements you should take.

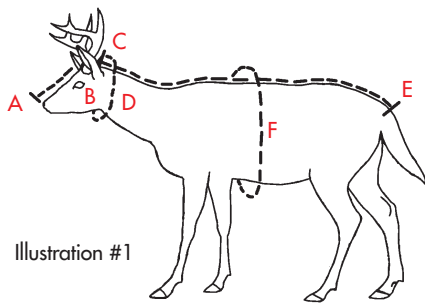


Illustration #1

1. End of nose to start of eye - A to B
2. End of nose to end of skull - A to C
3. Around neck behind ears - D

For life mounts you should take two more measurements

4. Nose to base of tail (taking tape over head and down center of back) A to E
5. Around largest part of the belly - F

Carry a small cloth tape with you, a notebook, and a pencil. This will help a taxidermist give you the proper size that your trophy should be.

After your trophy is skinned - if you or your guide know how to turn the lips and ears - this should be done at once. Remove as much flesh and fat from the skin as possible. Then salt with a granulated non-iodized table salt. Be sure to get it into all parts and wrinkles of the flesh side of the skin. Use plenty of salt - the more the better. After salting, fold or roll skin flesh side in and lay in shade for 24 hours. Then drain and resalt. If it is impossible for you to do any of the above, be sure to keep the skin or animal in as cool a place as possible. **If possible, freeze it.**

Take an extra duffel bag or burlap sack with you and ship your skins and meat as excess baggage. Air flights are fast and it is cool where luggage is kept in an airplane. If you do put dry ice in, you must tell the airlines.

Meat

Also bone all meat and have it frozen or air dried if possible. Don't ship it air freight - that is very expensive. Most of the time you can ship it as excess baggage - just to be sure that there is no blood coming through, put it in plastic bags. Keep each box under 60 lbs. There is no need to tell the airlines what is in the bags.

Antlers

Antlers can be a problem if not handled properly. Always leave part of the eye sockets on the skull to assure proper set for mounting.

Small Horns or Antlers

You can take them on the flight with you. Just be sure they don't smell and be sure you tape rubber hose or cardboard on all the points. A good idea is to put them in your duffel bag and pack clothes around them.

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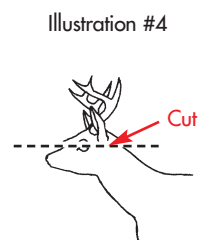
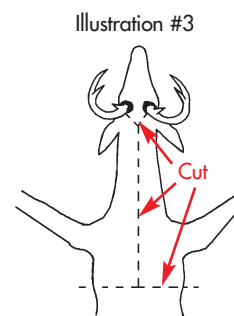
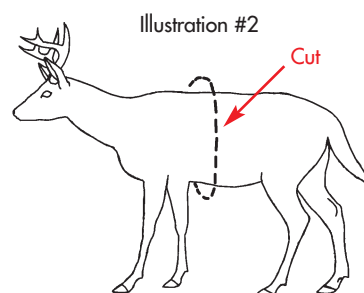
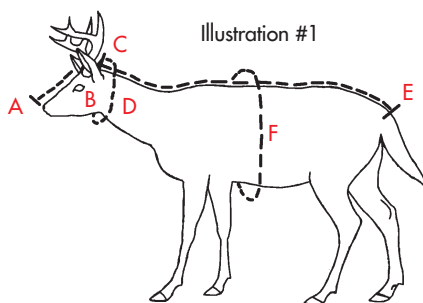
Proper Skinning For Shoulder Mounts

1. Measure from nose to start of eye A to B, nose to end of skull, A to C, around neck at base of skull, D. (See Illustr. #1)
2. Be sure to leave plenty of skin for a nice long shoulder mount - you can't give a taxidermist too much. See illustrations #2 and #3
3. Make V-cut down between horns or antlers, then cut down center of back of neck. See illustration #3.
4. Pull skin down over shoulders using knife to separate skin from body.
5. With small knife pull skin away from horns or antlers, cutting while pulling. Be careful not to slice skin. Stay close to base of horns or antlers. (Tip - use a screwdriver if available to use at base of horns to pry skin/hair away)
6. Cut ear butts off at the base of the skull - staying close to skull.
7. Continue on to eyes. Be very careful not to cut the skin around the eyes. Stay close to the skull.
8. When you come to the lips (mouth) again stay close to the skull.
9. Cut nose cartilage to remove cape from skull, split the cartilage on the nose and lips. Then turn the ear inside out as far as possible by using a sharp knife and your fingers.
10. After skin is separated from the skull, split the cartilage on the nose and lips. Then turn the ear inside out as far as possible by using a sharp knife and your fingers.
11. Remove as much meat and fat as possible, then salt flesh side very heavy and roll up.
12. Remove antlers from skull. Be sure to leave part of eye socket with skull plate. See illustration #4.

Shipping Instructions

You can send the scalp and horns or antlers prepaid by regular UPS (United Parcel Service) or by One Day Air UPS. Inform your taxidermist of your intentions. Tag your items with your name, complete address and phone number and the same info for your taxidermist. Put two tags on each item.

Check with your local taxidermist prior to your trip to find out shipping procedures.



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Shipping Horns & Antlers

Large Horns or Antlers

There are two ways you can bring them back with you, if you fly.

1. Not split - Elk, caribou and moose must be shipped baggage. Clean all meat from skull plate and cover with paper or burlap (use duck tape) take rubber or plastic hose with you and cut it in small pieces about 8" long. Use this to place over the points and hold in place with duck tape.

2. Split - Very large antlers, such as caribou, sometimes must be split. But, if you think it is going to make may the record books... DO NOT SPLIT! If you do, they will not be accepted. S.C.I. (Safari Club International) will accept them, but Boone and Crockett will not.

Splitting:

There are two ways to split antlers.

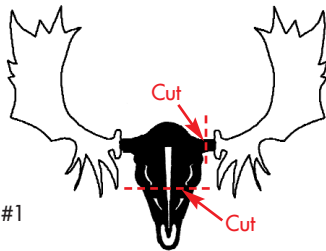


Illustration #1

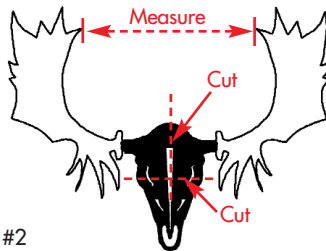


Illustration #2

One way is by cutting the skull just below the base of the antlers about 1/2 to 3/4". First, make 2 or 3 marks on the skull to assure proper fit back together. Then cut through marks keeping cut straight as possible. Only one side of the antlers need to be removed from the skull cap. This is the best way to split antlers if you want to make a mount with detachable antlers. It will also make it easier to ship back to yourself and enable you to get your trophy into your trophy room with ease.

First take a pencil or marker and draw about three lines across the skull from one base of the antler to the other. Also, take a measurement at some point on the antlers like from tip to tip. All this will help put the antlers back together to assure the proper size. Next, split the skull with a bone saw down the center of the skull. Be sure to make a good straight cut. After splitting, tape all points and cover the skull with burlap, paper or cloth.

If you like you can have the skins and antlers sent directly to your taxidermist for mounting. Put at least two tags with your name on them and who they are being sent to. Don't forget to include your taxidermist's phone number. Be sure to get to the airport at least two hours ahead of flight time and you won't have any problems.

If you drive to your hunting spot, you should have no problems bringing your items back. Just keep hides out of direct sun and as cool as possible. If items are not salted, do not put in plastic bags. Plastic does not breathe and may cause hair slippage. Call your taxidermist prior to or when you get home to make arrangements to get your trophies to him. Most items can be sent UPS or regular Parcel Post.

Good Luck and Happy Hunting!

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