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Handling Your Trophy

Small Game

Small game and birds should not be cut or skinned. Keep them as cool as possible, clean and dry. Remove any dirt and blood on the fur or feathers. Wrap in burlap, paper bag or newspaper. **DON'T USE PLASTIC BAGS.** They will trap the body heat and spoil your trophy. If possible, freeze your trophy until it is taken to your taxidermist.



Big Game

Eviscerate (Gut) your animal as soon as possible. (If you are going to get a life-size mount avoid gutting and follow instructions under skinning). It is extremely important to remove the body cavity contents, clean, and wash out your animal. This is important not only to preserve the meat for the table but also to cool down your animal as quickly as possible. Prop the cavity open with a stick to increase air flow.

Make no skin cuts forward of the front legs. This is important if you plan to have a shoulder mount done on your trophy. Refer to skinning section for shoulder mount animals. Skinning section can be found at:

http://www.naturescanvas.net/skinning_wildgame.htm

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Leave the skin and head attached. Don't do your taxidermist a favor by cutting off the head for your mount. Nine times out of ten you will cut it short and decrease the possibilities of a good long shoulder mount.

Skin your trophy as soon as possible. The old myth that you should hang it up for several days to age the meat is an old wives tale. You can't age meat with the skin on.

Wipe as much blood, dirt and water from the hair of your trophy as you can. Especially around bullet wounds which tend to deteriorate more rapidly.

Skins will deteriorate after skinning sooner than the meat. Get it to your taxidermist quickly. If you can't get it there, FREEZE IT. Freeze it in burlap, newspaper, or a paper bag. Don't use plastic!

DON'T USE PLASTIC BAGS. They protect your vehicle but ruin your trophy. Your cape (skin) must be able to breath. Plastic traps heat and creates sweat which causes spoilage to your cape. Remember always use burlap, paper bag or just a cardboard box.



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