



Billy Bunyard Taxidermy
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FIELD CARE

The foundation to any successful mount begins with proper field care and skinning. The procedures outlined here will apply to any animal, large or small, and if followed closely will assure you a trophy you can be proud of for years to come.

The first thing to remember is to never cut the animals throat under any circumstances. It is not necessary to bleed an animal as many people think. The blood will drain during the normal field dressing procedure. If the animal is not dead it should be dispatched at a safe distance with your rifle or bow.

Measurements taken from the animal before skinning are very useful when mounting your trophy. Necessary measurements for a shoulder mount are taken from tip of the nose to the front corner of the eye and around the neck at the base of the head. Additional measurements needed for a life size mount are taken from the tip of the nose to the base of the tail and circumference of the body at the largest point.



SHOULDER MOUNTS

The first step in skinning for a shoulder mount is to cut a circle around the body at point A (see illustration). Then cut circles around both legs as illustrated by line B with a cut up to the back of the leg as illustrated by line C. Peel the skin forward until you reach the junction of the head and neck. Sever head at this point. You should now call the studio as soon as possible to make arrangements to bring your trophy in for mounting. If you cannot bring the head in that day we recommend the head be refrigerated or frozen.

If cold storage facilities are not available the head needs to be skinned completely. To do this make another cut from between the antlers or horns down the back of the neck joining cut A. Then make a cut forming a "T" with the cut you just made between the base of each antler or horn. Carefully cut the skin away from the base of the horns. On antlered game a heavy screwdriver is useful in prying skin loose around antler bases.

Continue skinning forward until you reach the ear base. Cut the cartilage close to the skull. Skin down the skull being careful not to cut the eyelids. Use the fingers of the free hand to pull the lid away from the skull as you cut. The lips should be cut close to the skull leaving them attached to the skin.

Once the scalp has been completely removed special attention needs to be given to the ears, lips and nose. The ears need to be opened down the back between the cartilage and the skin on the back of the ear. Work down the back of the ear to within a quarter of an inch of the edge. Clean all meat from the ear butt. Next split the inside of the lips to near the edge of the inside of the lips to near the edge and split the nose cartilage, separating the nostrils.

Salting - Remove all flesh and fat, salt well on the flesh side. Rub the salt in with your hands until the skin is completely covered. Fine diary salt or table salt is best. Do not use rock salt.

Should any of these instructions be unclear, or you are just not sure of yourself, please call the studio at (620) 205-8394, or bring the animal by on the carcass and we will be glad to show you.

LIFE SIZE MOUNTS & RUGS

Turn the animal on its back. Cut the skin open by a clean straight cut down the mid line of the animal. On antlered or horned game start this cut at the brisket and finish about 3" from the anus. On furred animals start at the throat. Cut to one side of the genitals. Split the legs open down the back of the leg following the pattern of the hair. Cut with the lay of the hair not against it. Skin the head and prepare the lips, ears and nose then salt as described for shoulder mounts.