

HUNTER TAXIDERMY

PROFESSIONAL BIG GAME TAXIDERMY

CONTACT

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CALL ASAP AFTER HARVEST

Cape decisions are time-sensitive.

The mount starts in the field. Clean cuts, fast cooling and careful handling preserve the hide, the detail and the memory you earned.

WHEN YOU CALL

- Tell us species, temperature and time down.
- Send photos of the animal and cape cuts.
- Ask before cutting near the neck or brisket.
- Get transport or freezing instructions.

Designed for field use. Keep a copy in your pack or truck.

FIELD CHECKLIST

FIRST 20 MINUTES

- Move the animal to shade and start cooling immediately.
- Keep the cape out of dirt, blood, leaves and standing water.
- Photograph the animal before caping, especially brisket and shoulder areas.
- Call the shop before any neck, head or brisket cut.
- Use a tarp, game sled or clean truck bed liner during transport.



DO NOT

- cut up the front of the neck
- split the throat patch or brisket
- drag by antlers, horns, head or cape
- seal a warm hide in plastic
- leave the animal in heat

SHOP STANDARD

Bring extra cape, not a short cape. Our rule is simple: the shop can remove excess hide, but it cannot rebuild missing brisket, neck or shoulder skin.



HUNTERS TAXIDERMY



HUNTER TAXIDERMY

FIELD CARE GUIDE

Protect Your Trophy Before It's Too Late

Poor field care ruins mounts. Heat, dirt, bad cuts and trapped moisture can destroy a cape before it ever reaches the shop. Follow the guide, then call fast.

CALL ASAP AFTER HARVEST

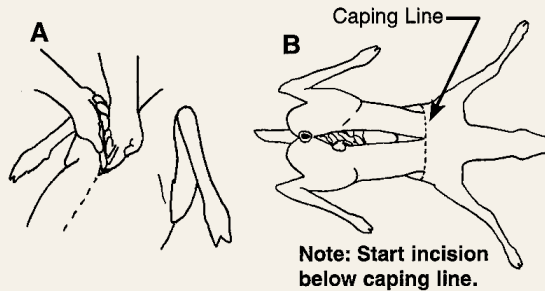
Timing, temperature and cuts matter.

TROPHY-QUALITY RESULTS START IN THE FIELD

TROPHY-QUALITY MOUNTS BEGIN WITH FIELD DISCIPLINE

A FIELD DRESSING

1. Put the animal on its back and open the belly with a shallow cut below the brisket. Keep the blade away from the brisket, throat patch and shoulder cape. Lift the hide with two fingers ahead of the knife so the organs are not punctured. See Figure A.
2. Cut straight down the belly and around the genitals without slicing into the abdominal wall. Continue the belly opening toward the pelvic bone. See Figure B.



3. Cut around the rectum deep enough to free the tissue without puncturing the intestine. Tie it off or hold it closed, pull it through the pelvic canal, then draw the intestine forward into the body cavity.
4. For a shoulder mount, do not cut open the chest cavity. Reach forward inside the chest, cut the windpipe and esophagus as high as possible, then pull them down through the body cavity. See Figure C.
5. Roll the animal onto its side, grab the esophagus with one hand and the rectum/intestine with the other and pull steadily. The organs should come out as one package with minimum mess. Keep the cape out of dirt, standing water and loose blood.



B CAPE HANDLING

Caping is the removal of the hide that will become the mount and is best **left to the taxidermist**. Incorrect cutting can damage the cape beyond repair. Heat, bacteria, mud and bad cuts can destroy a cape before it reaches the shop. Keep it clean, cool, dry and in one piece.

Warm days, long recoveries and sealed plastic accelerate hair slip. When you are unsure, stop cutting and call your taxidermist, before making the next incision.

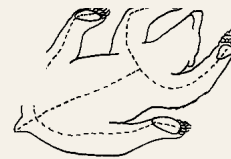
SKINNING LIFE-SIZE BIG GAME

For deer, elk, bear and similar life-size work, two field methods are common: the flat incision and the dorsal incision. The correct method depends on species, pose and final display. Extra hide can be trimmed. Missing hide cannot be rebuilt.

THE FLAT INCISION

Flat incisions are used for rugs and selected life-size poses. Follow the cut map in FIGURE 1 only when the hide can be cooled quickly. Free the feet from the carcass and skin the body cleanly. Leave the head attached unless the shop tells you otherwise.

FIGURE 1



IF YOU CANNOT DELIVER

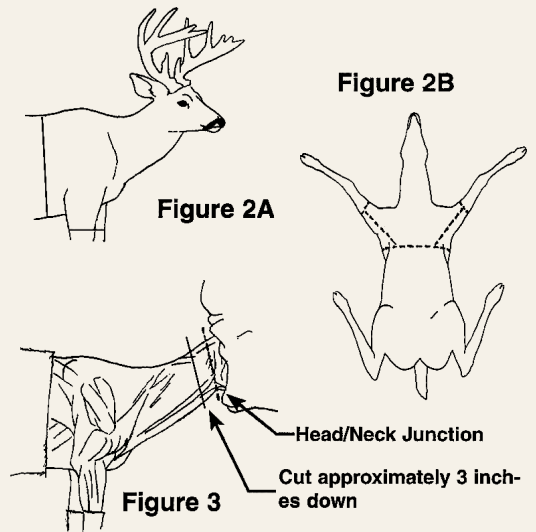
Cool the hide first, then freeze flat or exactly as the shop specifies. Never bag a warm hide.

THE DORSAL METHOD

A dorsal incision runs along the back, usually from the tail base toward the neck. Use it only when the taxidermist approves it for the pose. Done correctly, the skin can be removed, cooled and frozen fast after skinning.

C SHOULDER CAPING

1. With a sharp knife, cut completely around the body well behind the shoulders, near the mid-rib point. Skin each front leg just above the knee. Cut up the back side of each front leg and connect those cuts to the body cut. See FIGURES 2A and 2B.
2. Skin forward toward the ears and jaw to expose the head-neck junction. Cut into the neck roughly three inches below the skull, circle the neck and roll the cape forward. Keep the head attached for shop detail work. See FIGURE 3.



DO NOT cut up the front of the neck. Do not cut through the throat patch, brisket or armpits. Protect the nose, eyes, lips and ear bases from rocks, ice, brush and truck-bed abrasion.

If blood or mud gets on the cape, rinse with cool water and let it drain. Do not drag by antlers. If you need to drag it out, use a sled, tarp or attach a rope to the base of the antlers and drag carefully.