



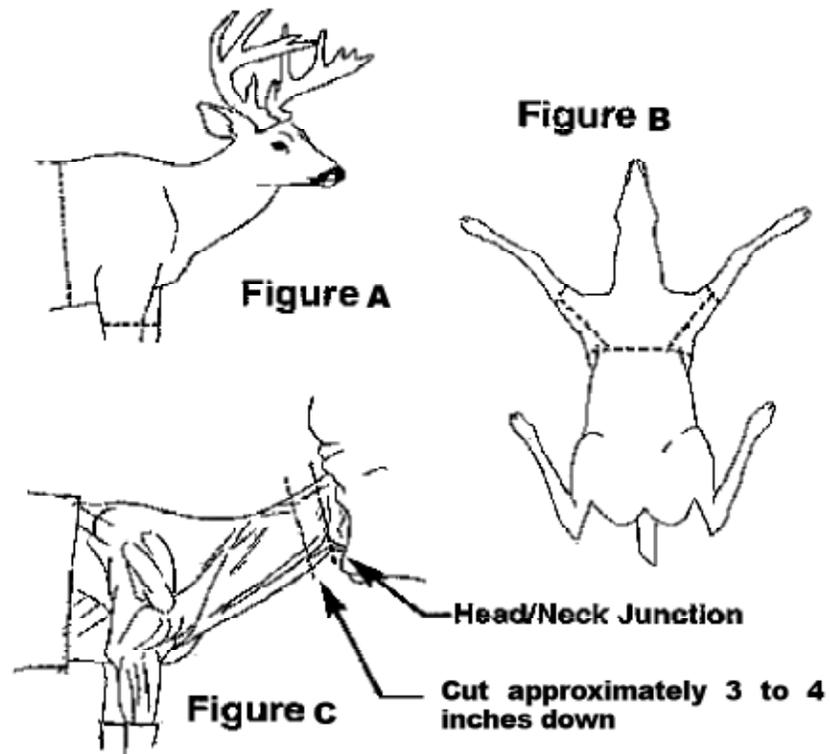
Field Care Instructions

Caping for a shoulder mount:

1. With a sharp knife slit the hide circling the body behind the shoulder at approximately the mid-way point of the rib cage behind the front legs (about six inches behind the front legs). You can't have too much cape, and you do not want to cut the brisket area (see illustration)
2. Slit the skin completely around the legs just above the knees.
3. Slit from the back of the legs to the initial cut around the deer body.
4. Peel the skin forward up to the ears and jaw exposing the head and neck junction. Cut into the neck approximately three or four inches down from this junction. This will allow the taxidermist to get the proper measurements for your mount. Circle the neck cutting down to the spinal column. After this cut is complete, grasp the antler bases and twist the head to remove it from the rest of the deer.
5. Let the hide cool (body heat dissipation), then roll up the cape and place it in a plastic bag in a chilled cooler and transport it to your taxidermist as soon as possible. Keep your hides dry and cool to avoid bacteria growth. If you cannot get it to the taxidermist within a short period of time, the cape can be double-bagged and frozen at this point.

Notes:

- When cutting the cape, be sure not to cut into the brisket (the chest). The taxidermist would rather cut off excess hide than to find the cape cut too short. (Replacement capes are available if you are reading this after the fact. Call for prices and availability.)
- Avoid drag marks and rope burns. Dragging can damage the cape as well as the fur, and this cannot be repaired.
- Do not cut off antlers or horns from head.
- As soon as the animal dies, bacteria begins to grow. Bacteria causes the hair to slip from the hide. Keep skins cool and dry at all times.
- Do not shoot the animal in the head or neck if at all possible. Also do not slit the animal's throat.





Tips:

Know your regulations before you head to the woods or to the lake. Always have appropriate tags with your trophies when you take them to your taxidermist. Certain species are protected by Federal Law and cannot be taken or mounted. Use precautions, such as gloves, when handling wild game, as there are various diseases which can be transmitted to humans. Always wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water after handling wild game.

Care for Fish

Do not gut or skin your fish. If you cannot take your fish to your taxidermist immediately, wrap it in a very wet towel and freeze it in two plastic bags to prevent freezer burn. Be sure that the fins lie flat to prevent breakage and to help ensure against puncturing the bag which causes freezer burn to occur.

Care for small mammals:

Small mammals, coyote sized or smaller should be taken to your taxidermist whole. Only your professional taxidermist should gut and skin these animals. Remember that they will spoil quickly due to their thin hide and bacteria. If you cannot take the small game to your taxidermist immediately, let the carcass cool, and put it in a plastic bag and freeze it. Be sure to use proper precautions (gloves, etc.) as you handle your game due to the possible presence of rabies or other diseases sometimes present.

Care for birds

Rinse off any blood from the feathers with water. Do not gut the bird. Take the bird immediately to your taxidermist or freeze it in two plastic bags to prevent freezer burn. Be careful not to bend or break feathers, including the tail, when bagging or transporting your bird.

