

FAQ

How should I care for my trophy after it has been taken?

:Mammals

After field dressing, do not cut the throat, and do not drag the animal if at all possible. Short drags on snow are alright, but dragging an animal over rough terrain will harm the fur. I will skin the animal for you. All you have to do is bring it by the shop. I will also cut the antlers off the skull. Price is dependent on size, quality, and animal type. I prefer to skin capes off of the faces myself so proper measurements can be made.

If skinning the animal in the field is necessary, avoid putting the skin in a plastic garbage bag. Keep the skin as clean as possible. Chill the skin, roll it up fur side out, and store in a cool dry place, out of direct sunlight, or, if possible, store in a freezer.

If you are out for an extended stay, remove all excess meat and fat from the skin. Turn the lips, eyelids, nose and ears. Salt overnight (do not use rock salt), then shake off salt and hang the skin in a cool dry area until most of the moisture is gone. Then roll up and keep in a breathable cotton bag for transport.

:Birds

Do not gut the bird! Place in a plastic bag and freeze until it can be brought to a taxidermist. The more careful you are with the bird, the better the mount will come out.

:Fish

Take measurements and multiple pictures of the fish focusing on its colors. Roll in borax and freeze in a plastic bag until it can be brought to a taxidermist.

Why does taxidermy take so long?

The mounting process itself is actually very short. A competent taxidermist can mount a game head in 3-4 hours. The most time consuming part is the tannery turn around. Once the skin is returned from the tannery, it is mounted at the taxidermist's discretion. Work is completed on a first come, first serve basis.

How long can an animal be stored in the freezer before I get it to the taxidermist?

It is best to get your specimen to the taxidermist as soon as possible. After a year, freezer burn will begin to compromise your specimen. If you are planning on waiting longer than a year to get your specimen mounted, I would suggest getting it tanned.

If I need to ship my mount, how should I do it?

All frozen specimens should be shipped Fed-Ex over night shipping.

I found this cool hawk on the side of the road. Can you mount it?

No. I can not legally mount any birds protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act without proper federal permits, which are only issued to museums, schools, and other educational facilities.

Will you mount my pet?

No. It is very difficult if not impossible to recapture a deceased pet through taxidermy.

Is this legal?

Yes. All of my state and federal permits are up to date.

Etiquette:

1. Please do not bring animals without proper tags or stamps. All animals poached or taken illegally will be reported to the authorities as I am legally obligated to do so.
2. Please do not slit the throat or "bleed out" the animal. This is an unnecessary action and will do a considerable amount of damage to the specimen.
3. Please bring picture of your trophy, especially fish, to ensure a higher quality mount.
4. Please take into consideration the appearance of the animal as that's how it will look mounted. If you are dissatisfied with its appearance, do not have it mounted.