



Field Care Guide

Essential tools for field preparation of trophies

Plastic Barrel

Preferably with large open top but one that can be closed — used for brining capes, back skins and full skins etc.

Coarse Salt

Use to make brine bath, salt sludge and salt stack.

Fine Salt

Rub into facial areas, paws, tails and feet — it can be left out if skins are brined before placing in a salt stack.

Bactericide

Biocides are used in sludge and brine baths. They reduce bacteria and certain fungi which are the most common cause of the hide deterioration.

Knives

Small bladed straight edges with good point for capping and a longer blade for normal skinning.

Overview to skinning and curing processes

- Shoot early in the morning, there is less chance of bruising because there is decreased blood supply below and within the skin.
- Prevent mechanical damage when loading the animal as it is permanent and can affect your end result.
- Skin as soon as possible, use a sharp knife to make cuts and a blunt knife to skin.
- Use sludge with bactericide (coarse salt mixed with enough water to produce porridge like consistency) if trophy is caped or skinned away from camp.
- Wash skins before placing them in brine.
- Leave skins in brine bath with bactericide for approximately 24 hours.
- Drip dry skins before placing them in salt stacks.
- Uncurl edges and rub salt into all parts of skin before placing them into dry salt stack.
- Place roughly 3cms dry coarse salt under the first skin and about the same amount on top, before the next skin.
- Remove skins after +/- 5 days (depending on the size of the skin and the weather conditions) brush all surface salt off and allow to air dry until skin starts to harden.
- Fold skins and capes hair side inwards. Protect ears and facial areas by folding these inwards first, then fold edges over these and form a neat rectangle. Fold this in half and only do so if skin is completely dry — do not fold skins with obvious moisture left within.
- Prevent further wetting of dry skins. If this should occur, open them out and treat them as if they are freshly out of the brine bath and place them back in the salt stack for a couple of days.
- The most efficient method for skull cleaning is boiling and preferably in a solution of potassium per borate (although soap powder can also be used) which assists in the emulsification (breakdown) of fats. Be careful not to over boil skulls and horns and take greater care with skulls that are not horned limiting boiling time to only as long as is necessary to remove muscle blocks. Drying should only take place in the shade.

- Horn moth, the curse of every hunter, can be controlled with the use of carbaryl or other green label insecticides, horns should be dipped into a solution for an hour or so and then allowed to dry.

Tagging & Transporting

For your convenience, we offer a service where we prepare personal trophy tags and have them delivered to your PH before you come out on safari. These are then attached to your hides and skulls in preparation for shipment to TCI.

TCI offer a trophy collection service to all our clients, so as to ensure we get your trophies into our studio as quickly as possible ready to start the work. Speak to your PH about arranging the collection/drop off of your trophies and we can arrange the transport if necessary.

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