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### **TIPS FOR CARE OF YOUR TROPHY**

Hunting season is fast approaching. We are getting our equipment ready, planning where will go and scheduling time off to get out in the woods. As we put so much thought into preparation. We forget to plan what to do after we take that trophy. Planning how we will take care of our trophy and how we should prepare it to get it to our taxidermist is just as important as the hunt. Having to tell a customer that we cannot mount their trophy of a lifetime because it was not properly taken care of is something we do not enjoy doing.

Here are a few tips that will help you get that trophy to your wall to enjoy for many years to come.

If you are going out of state with an outfitter. Check with them and find out what facilities they have to take care of your trophy. Don't be afraid to ask these questions. You are paying a lot to hunt. Getting your animal, capeing, shipping, getting your trophy back is something any reputable outfitter will be able to handle.

Getting your animal caped is very important. Skinning the animal is not capeing. You will need to get the hide off the head. If they tell you it is cold, it will be ok. IT WILL NOT.

If you can get the cape frozen that is best. That way your taxidermist can take care of the cape the way he prefers. Tanning, turning ears, lips, fleshing will vary depending on which method your taxidermist uses. Finding a taxidermist in the area you are hunting will save you from possibly losing your trophy. The money you pay to save your trophy will be money well spent when your animal is hanging on your wall.

Get a few measurements. Eye to nose, neck size, tip of nose to tail for lifesize. This will be a big help to your taxidermist.

Life size mounts, bear for instance, will need to be skinned according to how you are going to get it mounted. A life size mount should be skinned down the back. A rug

should be skinned down the belly and legs. Shoulder mounts for bear should be peeled off from the shoulder without making any cuts.

Salting can cause a whole array of problems. If you salt your animal without turning the lips, ears, etc will make it hard for your taxidermist. Ears, lips, etc that can not be completely turned will detract from your mount when it is finished. If you're animal is not fleshed before salting. The salt will not penetrate the hide and will cause the hair to slip.

Freezing animals should be done by placing in a plastic bag. Fish, birds, small game should be frozen whole. If you are going to mount that gobbler, why take out the entrails. Get to your taxidermist as soon as possible. Show it off after you get it mounted. Don't take a chance on letting it go bad.

DO NOT wrap your fish in a towel or wet paper. This will only loosen the scales. Plastic will not stick. It will keep in the freezer until you can get it to your taxidermist.

If you do not have a taxidermist, look around before you go out to hunt for that trophy. Find someone who is reputable and does good work. Waiting a year does not mean your taxidermist is busy. This is the trophy of a lifetime. Price shopping will get you a mount that you will not be happy with years later.

Most of us have the opportunity to take a big buck, once in a lifetime. If you have taken many big bucks, come and talk to us about discounts for hunting privileges, because trophy animals are hard to come by.

These are just a few tips to help you to get your trophy back to get the best mount you can.

If we can help in any way, Please feel free to stop by our shop or call us at 717-369-4591. We are located next to Keystone Country Store in Ft Loudon.

GOOD LUCK

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