

HOW TO CAPE YOUR ANIMAL

Many times we are faced with caping animals in the field to transport them back to camp. In warm weather it is best to cape elk and moose off the body to allow the cape to cool before transport. This guide may assist you with infield caping and care. Please ask your taxidermist how to cape your animal to his liking before going afield.

First- Using Figure 1 –

- Cut around the front legs just above the knee.
- Next, cut around the mid-section of the animal, again well back from the armpit, at least 6-8" behind the front leg. (When in doubt, ALWAYS cut the cape LONGER)
- Next, run the knife up the back of the Front leg (Along the cowlick) to just above the level of the Brisket, then cut straight back to the Mid-Section cut. This will need to be done on BOTH front legs.
- Start a cut 3-4 inches behind the antlers down the center of the TOP of the neck/back to the mid-section incision. (Shown in figure 2)
- Now the cape can be pulled and skinned forward, up the neck, including the brisket/belly skin. All hide in front of the mid-section cut should be on the cape.
- If possible, cut through the neck (muscle and spine: dotted line) leaving the cape on the head. You have now caped your animal in a manner that will allow you to get it to the taxidermist.

Next- Using Figure 2 (**These Steps Are Best Left To Your Taxidermist**) USE only if absolutely necessary.

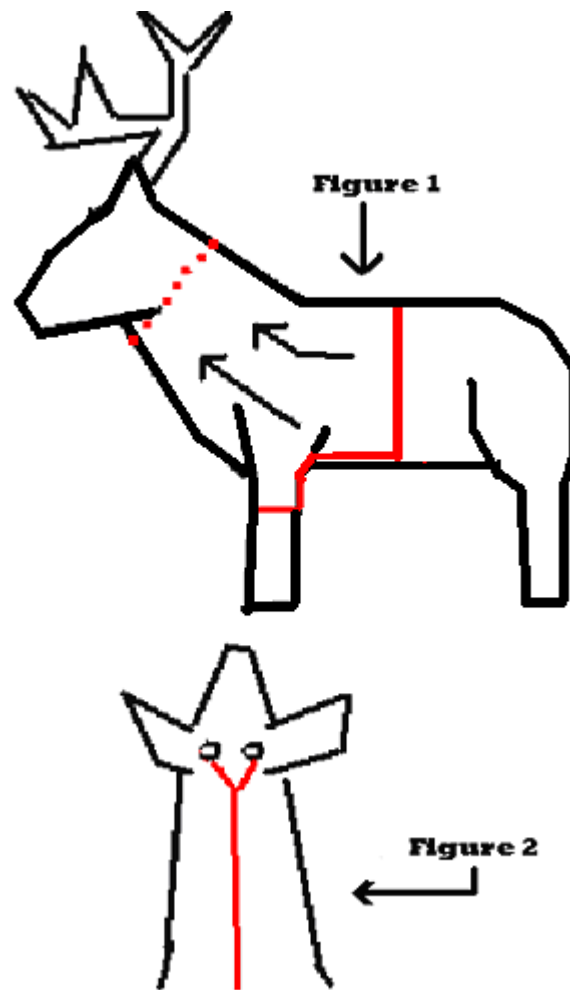
- Cut from each antler to the "top of the back" cut creating a Y.
- It is then necessary to skin around each antler/horn –where the hide meets the antler burr. Then cut through the base of the ear -close to the skull-, and continue skinning down the face. MUCH CARE should be taken around the eyes, tear ducts (located in FRONT each eye and 1 inch deep into the skull), nose, and lips, (cutting inside the mouth and leaving the bumpy, inner lip/cheek). Always stay close against the skull. Many capes are ruined by careless caping of the face.
- PLEASE ASK YOUR TAXIDERMIST TO SHOW YOU HOW TO PERFORM THESE LAST STEPS BEFORE GOING AFIELD.

----- Allow the cape to cool before compacting it for transport. The cape should be hung out in a cotton bag when back at camp to make

sure it has cooled. Transport and store the cape loosely placed (not rolled tight) in a **cotton bag**, out of the sun, and off the bed of the truck. Do not place the cape in a plastic bag. -----

Get the animal to a Taxidermist as soon as possible. In hot temperatures capes may only last one day, while in colder temperatures a cape may be good for almost a week. Salting of hides should only be done as a last resort after discussion with your Taxidermist. Do not use Iodized (Table) salt, rather a loose, cleaned fee salt from a livestock supply store is best. Avoid leaving the cape in the sun.

BEST OF LUCK ON YOUR HUNT!



AVOID dragging the animal. Dragging the animal will cause the hair on the shoulders to be rubbed-off or broken.

I HAVE BEEN DOING TAXIDERMY SINCE 1989, FINDING MUCH PLEASURE IN BRINGING SOMEONE'S TROPHY BACK TO LIFE. I PUT EXTRA TIME INTO EACH MOUNT BECAUSE I DO NOT WORRY ABOUT "JUST GETTING TO THE NEXT ONE". AS A MEMBER OF THE UTAH TAXIDERMIST ASSOCIATION, I HAVE COMPETED IN THE UTAH TAXIDERMY SHOW, WINNING RIBBONS WITH MY ENTRIES. QUALITY IS MY NUMBER ONE COMMITMENT. I ALWAYS GET MY WORK BACK TO THE CUSTOMER IN LESS THAN 12 MONTHS, MANY WILL RECEIVE THEIR MOUNT BACK IN 4-9 MONTHS.

BEST OF LUCK TO YOU ON YOUR HUNTS.

TAXIDERMY

BY
MICHAEL CHRISTENSEN

885 E 50 S
AMERICAN FORK, UT 84003
(801)-360-1163
(801)-756-2703



**IN-FIELD GUIDE:
HOW TO CAPE
BIG GAME TROPHIES
FOR HEAD MOUNTS**

*IT IS ALWAYS A GOOD IDEA TO CHECK WITH *YOUR*
TAXIDERMIST ON CAPING REQUIREMENTS