



October 12, 2009

Dear Texas Taxidermist:

The following information has been distributed to Game Wardens across Texas so that enforcement can be consistent statewide. Additionally, a handout is included that reflects the legislative changes that became effective September 1, 2009, along with the new Cold Storage or Processing Facility Record Book.

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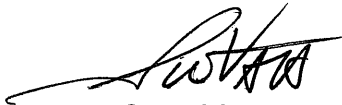
Carter P. Smith  
Executive Director

- Any part of a deer, pronghorn or turkey that is left at a taxidermist is required to have a wildlife resource document (WRD) accompany the part {Texas Parks and Wildlife Code, §42.018(d)}. The WRD must remain with the part until the owner picks the part up.
- A taxidermist who accepts a deer or turkey must retain the WRD or tag accompanying each deer or turkey for a period of two years following the return of the resource to the owner or the sale of the unclaimed resource.
- If a part is left with a taxidermist and the carcass has already been processed, then the part could be tagged with a properly executed tag from the hunting license, or a WRD.
- While at the taxidermist, the WRD or hunting license tag does not have to be physically attached to a part, but may be attached to an invoice or record at the taxidermist shop, provided that there is an identifying mark, tag or label attached to the part that directly ties the part to the WRD or hunting license tag in the records.
- Old mounts taken to a taxidermist for refurbishing do not need a hunting license tag or WRD.
- Capes and hides that taxidermists have bought and are holding to be used in their business do not need a hunting license tag or WRD. In most cases, the taxidermist will have a receipt showing where the parts were purchased.
- Antlers / horns that the taxidermist is in possession of that were brought into the shop before September 1, 1997 should not be a concern, although the WRD requirement was in effect prior to this date.
- A **completed** WRD that is required to accompany a wildlife resource, if a resource is divided up or if the head of an antelope or deer no longer accompanies a carcass, is the **responsibility of the hunter**.

- Scenario: If a hunter kills a buck deer on a ranch and places the properly tagged deer in storage on the ranch and immediately boards an airplane for New York City, then the ranch is holding the deer legally. At some point, the ranch carries the properly tagged deer to a taxidermy shop, the taxidermist capes the deer and removes the antlers for mounting and the carcass is delivered to a different location for processing. At this point, the cape and antlers must be accompanied by a WRD that is signed by the hunter. The carcass must be accompanied by the properly executed hunting license tag and a receipt from the taxidermist stating that the deer was antlered.

If you have any questions, please call me at (512) 389-4626.

Sincerely,



Scott Vaca  
Assistant Chief of Wildlife Enforcement  
Texas Parks & Wildlife Department – Law Enforcement Division

Enclosures