

Hello

Welcome to the first edition of the Down Under Taxidermy and Hunting (DUTH) newsletter.

Firstly, we want to thank everyone who filled in our competition form at the Safari Club International Show at Coffs Harbour, New South Wales, in February 2011. In particular, We'd like to thank the people who filled out the form so we could actually read it!

We would like to congratulate Paul Richardson for being the lucky winner of this "free mount" competition. He has already dropped of a Rusa Deer he was lucky enough to shoot recently.

And more recently, Aaron Knowles was the winner of another of our "free mount" competitions from the Outdoor and Hunting Show at Morayfield, Queensland, in August 2011. He dropped off a Fallow Deer he already had and was thinking of getting mounted. Lucky him, now he doesn't have to find the money to pay for it!

We at DUTH believe in producing the best possible product we can for each and every mount. To achieve this we use the best tanning products and materials on the market. Our artificial animal eyes are the best on the market. As new innovations are introduced to the taxidermy industry we try to implement them into our business. The result is a mount that has no gap at the pedicels, is smooth and realistic at the eyes and nose and has a natural looking paint finish.

The real test of a good mount is if it not only looks good from a distance, but if it still looks good close up. Our mounts will pass this test.

In the field

For those that have not caped an animal yet and want to get their next Trophy mounted, here are some tips.

Once you shoot the Trophy and if the air temperature is more than 25°, try to get the trophy to some shade as soon as possible. The body of animals start to break down as soon as you kill them. Heat, particularly combined with moisture, speed this process up.

A common mistake happens when the initial cuts are made.

First cut is around the girth about 20 centimeters behind the shoulder (figure 1). This cut can become crooked if the animal is lying in an awkward position. With all the cuts, you have to take note of which way the skin is pulled or try to position the animal so the skin sits normal.

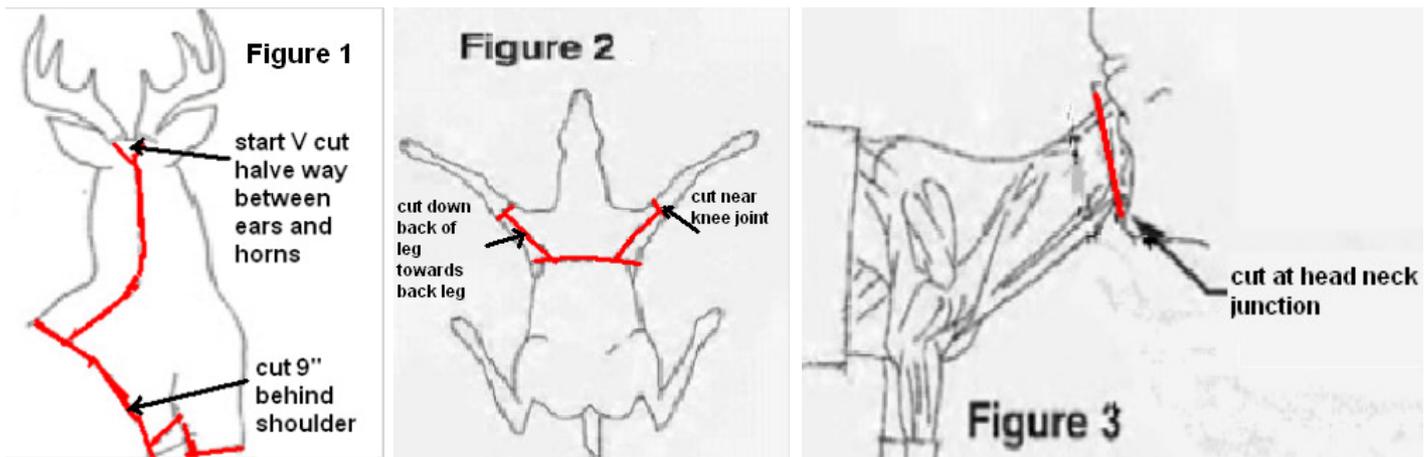
The second cut is around the knee. This should be close to the knee (figure1 and 2). Some people cut closer to the chest and in some cases that will not be enough cape for the taxidermist.

The next cut is important. This is done from the back of the leg, the side that is facing towards the back leg. The cut should be heading towards the back leg, up to the cut that went around the girth. Do not cut in towards the centre of the chest (figure2). A lot of people do this, and very often this will leave a short cape, which means the mount will have to be shortened.

The last cut is up the centre of the back. This cut can also become crooked if the animal is lying in an awkward position. Cut up to half way between the ears and the horns or antlers. Then make a "V" cut to the base of the horns or antlers (figure 1).

After carefully skinning out the animal you can cut it off at the base of the neck and work on the face or take it to the taxidermist (figure 3). We charge \$50 an hour to skin out animals for clients. You need to cool down the cape and head and not let the skin side dry out. So once it is cool you can fold the cape, skin side to skin side, and this will prevent it from drying out.

In the next newsletter, we will explain in detail how to cape out the head.



Hunting

Last year's Red Deer season was a great success. Lots of animals were sighted and some good trophies taken. Following are pictures of some of those trophies.



Father and son team, Charlie and Justin, from Melbourne hunted together for 4 days and where able to get a 6 x 6 and 5 x 6. Some very exiting stalks where had and good deer spotted. They were a couple of very happy hunters when we dropped them of at the airport.



Erich above scored a great 6 x 6 .



Scott from Ayr found out not all hunting is on flat ground. He scored a great 6 x 5 early in the hunting season.



Justin from Melbourne was able to take home this great 6 x 6 after a well executed plan.



Shaun from North Queensland also found out we DO climb all those hills! He was rewarded with a great mature 4 x 4.



I also had a chance to get out there and was able to bag a great 6 x 5 and a malformed 4 x 5.



Darryl Bulger was able to shoot his best stag to date. The stage was only 12 metres away when he shot it with his bow.

Next year's Red Deer season is looking very good for antler growth as there has been plenty of rain and the stags are staying fat. A lot of very good stags were sighted last year and not shot. These stags will be excellent trophies for the 2012 season.

We are nearly fully booked for the 2012 season, so if you are interested, don't wait too long to book a hunt with us. Best phone number to get us on is 0412 97 92 95 or email markusmich@aussiebroadband.com.au .

Thank you for reading this newsletter and hopefully it was informative. If you would like to see some examples of our work or Deer taken in previous years, go to our website at www.downundertaxidermy.com.au .

In the next newsletter we will explain how to skin out the face of a Deer, with pictures to help explain.

Cheers for now from myself and the team at Down Under Taxidermy and Hunting.

Markus