

Skinning Life–Size Big Game

There are two methods of skinning for a life size mount such as deer, elk, bear and etc. These methods are the flat incision and the dorsal method. Use these methods only when you are unable to have a taxidermist do it and only when you can get it frozen quickly after skinning.

The dorsal method

This is the preferred method for most life-size mounts. Cut a long slit down the back (from the base of the tail to the neck usually to the base of the skull) with your knife blade facing out cutting from the inside out. This will allow you to cut the skin without cutting the hairs. The head is cut off from the rest of the carcass as with a shoulder mount. Peel skin down the carcass to the feet cutting the feet free from the carcass leaving the with the skin.

The flat incision

The flat incision is used for rug mounts and a variety of poses. The areas to be cut are shown in (figure 4). Make these slits cutting the feet free from the carcass leaving them attached to the skin and pull the skin off the carcass detaching the head from the carcass as with a shoulder mount. (Note: If having the animal mounted life–size do not cut away the genitals and try not to cut hairs.)

Figure 4

