

TAXIDERMY & Trophy Shipping



Artistic Visions Wildlife



Frank J. Zitz & Company Inc.

Môredou Taxidermy

Choices for the Hunter

TAXIDERMY AFRICA





INTRODUCTION

If you are a trophy hunter, ultimately the most important aspect of the safari - together with your memories - is the actual trophy. The physical reminder in your trophy room, lounge, or office, that takes you back to that special time when you were on safari.

This booklet is designed to give traveling hunters, like you, a clear overview of the options you have in dealing with your trophies. With a pedigree of 20 plus years of publishing the African Hunting Gazette, and exporting thousands of trophies annually, we're here to help you understand the various elements and options you have to make an informed decision.

You really have two choices, and we want you to understand the options with both:

Mounting the work in Africa:

With the taxidermist your outfitter has recommended, or the one you have used before and were happy with, or with the broking service of TTS: The AHG's – Taxidermy & Trophy & Shipping.

Mounting the work back home:

Where your trophies (hides & skulls) are exported as dried, salted, and partially processed, hides & skulls. 'Dip & Pack' is the term. Where they are then tanned and mounted back home. There is an option however, (not well known) where hides can be fully processed, (tanned) and ready ready for re-hydrating and mounting back home. Skulls fully bleached and cut according to how they would be used in the finished mounting back home. We call this Tan & Ship.







WHAT TO LOOK OUT FOR IN THE FIELD

It is the client's responsibility to ensure that he/she hunts with a reputable outfitter, and to make certain to get a copy of the Professional Hunting Register. The first page (as it says clearly) must be handed to the client. This is proof that he/she did a legal hunt in this country.

It is imperative the client monitors the handling of his trophies. Hair slip is caused when bacteria gets into the skin within the first 24 hours of the animal being shot! If the trophy is a delicately-haired animal like an nyala or kudu, the PH should ideally have a sailcloth to lift/drag it so as not to damage the cape. Without a canvas, drag marks are only seen once the skin is tanned and are just as serious as hairslip. Also, if the guys are going to a far-off concession for a gemsbok say, they might shoot an impala or hog or bushbuck or steenbok early and spend the rest of the day looking for that gemsbok. Meanwhile the first trophy is still on the back of a hot truck the whole day, so at the very least these early-hunted animals need the guts removed and hung in the shade somewhere.

The client should know that he/she has the right to not only choose whoever they want to work with if they are having their trophies mounted in Africa, the outfitter is obliged to contact that company and arrange to get the trophies there or have them collected. Of course, this is a bit nonsensical if it's just a dip and ship which most taxidermists can get right.

Also, it is recommended, where possible, the client visits or has a virtual tour of the dip/pack facility or taxidermist that is being recommended. It is always worth the trouble so the client can see and meet the people he/she will be dealing with, and assess the facility. Video tours are just as useful to ensure you actually 'see' the set up if time is against you.



DON CLAIRE TAXIDERMY







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THINK ABOUT THE MOUNTS BEFORE YOU LEAVE

In the excitement about your impending safari, often details like where or how you are going to display your mount might not even cross your mind. And while it can be a significant part of the total hunt costs, there are space constraints in your home that are often as important! Given the species you hope to take, think about whether it's a skull or European mount. Or if a shoulder mount, which angle. There are now what they call wall pedestal or half mounts. Pedestal, either on its own, as a pair, or in a cluster. There are new, innovative designs with groups of species that make for a stunning addition to a room, allowing a number of species to be mounted effectively and space efficiently. What about the skulls or hides if you're doing European mounts, or back skins? These make great mementos.



STEP 1



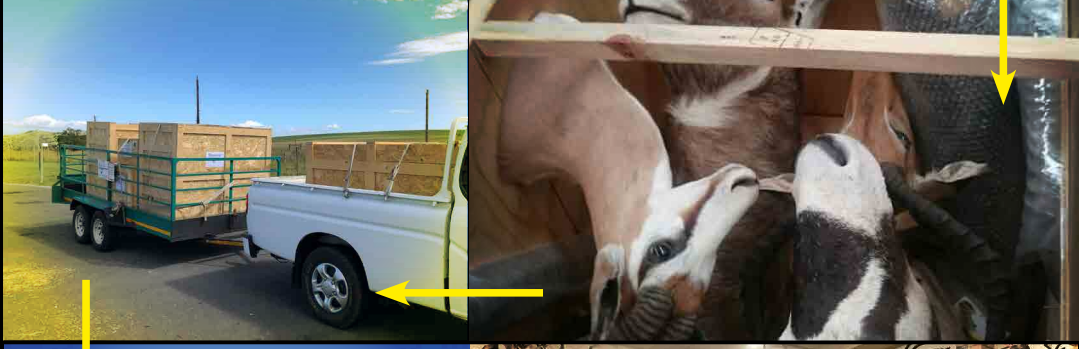
STEP 2



STEP 3



STEP 4



STEP 5





STEPS YOUR TROPHY TAKES

Step 1

From the field



Step 2

Skinning shed/salt



Step 3

Transported to the Taxidermist for one of the following:

- **Dip & packed**
- **Fully processed and mounted**
- **Tan and shipped**



Step 4

Crated and transported to the Port for Export procedures (Joburg)



Step 5

Loaded and shipped (Air or Ocean) to the Port of Entry
Importation and Customs Clearing

OPTION 1

Finished mounts
delivered



Hunter's trophy room

OPTION 2

Raw or tanned product
sent to taxidermist back
home



Finished mounts delivered



Hunter's trophy room

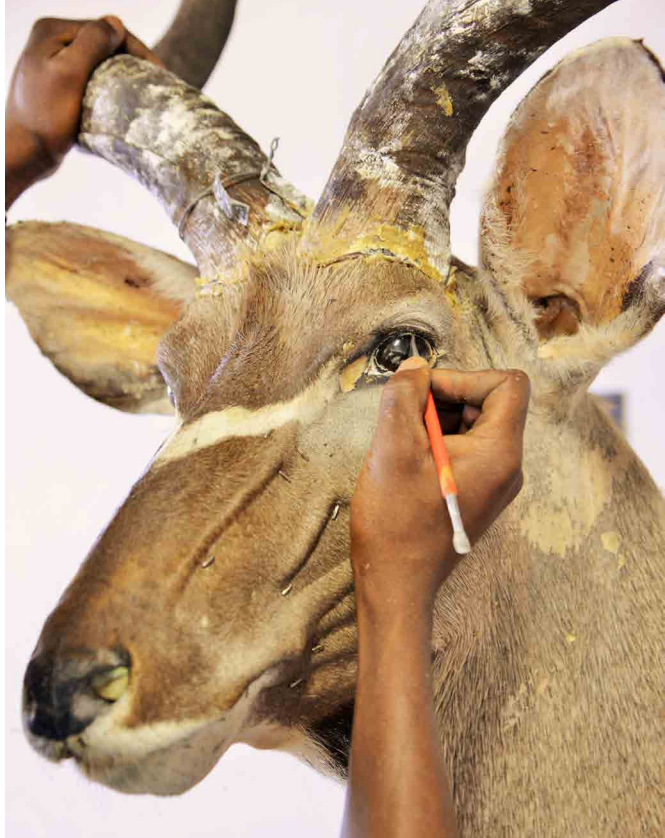


Sent to commercial
tannery back home
if taxidermist does
not do their own
tanning

LIFE FORM TAXIDERMISTRY







STEPS YOUR TROPHY TAKES

Let's just run through the steps, from the time you take your animal in the field to the time it is on your wall. Then we will highlight who is responsible and where you as the hunter have some say.

1. Once your trophy is skinned, it is left in the salt at the hunting camp, or lodge's skinning shed until your safari is complete.
2. Then it will be either:
 - **Collected** or delivered to, the taxidermist you have decided to use. This is regardless whether you are doing Dip & Pack or fully processed mounting
 - **Prepared** by the outfitter himself, if he operates a hide preparation, (dip & pack) facility or as some outfitters offer, the full taxidermy process
3. If you are sending it back home to be mounted, it is needs to be 'dip and packed.' Skulls are boiled and hides are solution treated, then dried. After drying they are crated. As mentioned in the introduction, an option is to have the hides fully tanned and skulls completely bleached, meaning they are lighter to ship, ready for mounting back home and the entire process is sped up. (Tan and ship)



4. If being mounted in Africa, the trophy's hide is prepared for the tanning process, and the skulls are boiled, cleaned and bleached. **NB:** *Many African taxidermists do their own tanning on site. Tanning specialist species (like crocodile), or back skin tanning for a leather finish, is usually outsourced to specialist tannery.*
5. During the initial tanning, it is when the shaving of excess fat (if necessary) is done.
6. After tanning, the mounting of the wet hide goes onto the mannequin (form), after which, drying begins.
7. Following the drying, final artwork & touch-ups begins. (This is when you, at the minimum, need to have seen what your mount looks like!)
8. Completed mounts, backskin hides, flat skins and skulls are then crated, ready for transporting. Some taxidermists do their own crating, some rely on the exporting shipping agent to do this.
9. If your shipping agent is different from the taxidermist, you should have had contact with them by now and given them the authority to handle your cargo.
10. The crate is transported by the shipping agent to their warehouse.
11. Final checks and the export freighting processes commence; permits are verified (these may have been applied for by the taxidermist, of the shipping company)
12. If there is an inspection needed by Nature Conservation/ Govt. Authorities, this is where it happens.
13. Crates are loaded onto the aircraft /or into a container, with all documentation having been verified by the importing agent (of your choice, or one that is recommended to you).
14. Air or ocean transport carries you cargo.
15. At the port of entry, the crate of trophies is cleared through customs, with shipments being inspected by the authorities.
16. Following clearance, the trophies are then either:
 - Delivered and installed in your home if completed in Africa or,
 - Delivered to your taxidermist if the mounting is to be done back home.
17. If the taxidermist back home has his own tanning facilities, the hides will be tanned there, failing which, they are outsourced to a commercial tannery.
18. Once tanning is completed, they will be returned to the taxidermist for mounting.
19. Final delivery to your trophy room is then expedited. Depending on the distance, this may be in crates or loosely packed by your taxidermist back home.





TAXIDERMY IN AFRICA

OPTION 1

PROS:

- African-based taxidermists have the benefit and experience of working on African game
- Most African taxidermists do their own in-house tanning, saving time and money
- The finished mounts can be delivered to your trophy room
- There can, and should, be a time saving
- There can, and should, be a cost saving, taking into consideration both shipping and taxidermy
- Less steps in the process. Less handling of your trophies
- All work can be checked & verified before leaving Africa
- If there is a problem, it can be rectified and resolved in Africa

CONS:

- Not having an immediate contact in your time zone/home country if there is a problem to deal with



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TAXIDERMY BACK HOME

OPTION 2

PROS:

- Doing work with your 'own' taxidermist 'back home' has a level of comfort
- World-class taxidermists back home may be preferable to use, regardless of costs
- It might be easier to manage issues back home, more so than having to deal with it someone 'in Africa'

CONS:

- Commercial tanning is an additional element (time and money) as many taxidermists do not have their own tanning facility. The trophies have to be processed for dip and packing in Africa regardless and this can take up to six months depending on the operator.
- Lack of familiarity with the (African) species for some taxidermists back home.
- Pricing can be higher
- Cape replacement (if damaged) may not be that easy.







WHAT IS DIP AND PACK?

Dip & Pack is the minimum processing a hunting trophy can undergo in order to be exported from an African country, imported to another country. NB. Check your Dip & Pack Agent has a veterinarian approval to operate as this will delay the exporting process. Antlers, bones, carcasses, hoofs, horns, skulls, teeth and tusks should be clean and dry and free of undried pieces of hide, flesh, sinew and any organic matter.



THE DISINFECTION PROCESS INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING METHODS:

1. Soaking the inner cores and horns in boiling water for a minimum period
2. Soaking the inner cores in 0.1% Chlorine Bleach solution for a minimum period
3. Soaking the horns in a 5% Formaldehyde solution for a minimum period
4. Soaking the inner cores in a 5% hydrogen peroxide for a minimum period

- Untanned hides or skins must be dried to the extent that they look brittle enough to crack when bent. Hides should be treated with an approved insecticide during the Dip & Pack process
- Trophies should be packed immediately after treatment, without being in contact with other products of animal likely to contaminate them
- Trophies that have been professionally cleaned are free of dirt, blood, insects, and putrid odors
- Dip & Pack trophies should be consigned to a USDA approved establishment like an approved tannery or taxidermist and cannot be sent directly to a client
- Clients should take cognizance of the fact that insecticides have a limited shelf life and will lose their effectiveness over a period of time, which may lead to infestations



Our Trophy Shipping Service

- We offer you the best price
- We offer a delivery to your door /taxidermist
- We are based both sides of the Atlantic
- We are a trusted name and offer peace of mind



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WHAT GOES INTO CRATING

What goes into crating – blurb about the actual crating, some with horns on, so without, some odd mounts affect the size. How crating is measured.







TAN AND SHIP

We use only the original BASF chemical for tanning, ensuring top quality results. Our modified Alum process will allow your taxidermist back home to rehydrate the skins and immediately start with processing your trophies. Our process is designed and monitored by top industry professionals from Germany and is reviewed quarterly to take advantage of the newest industry innovations.

The advantages are:

- You will have peace of mind that the quality of your hide is excellent before leaving Africa. We will report any damage and look for solutions to address the problem, repair and in extreme circumstances, replace the hide before it leaves Africa
- The overall cost will be reduced because a process is cut out, (tanning back home) and the shipping of fully tanned hides and ready to use skulls, means the cargo is lighter and less space consuming
- The taxidermist turnaround time will be shorter
- And while the skins have to be prepared for export (Dip & Pack) anyway, use those months to start the tanning process in Africa
- The hides are completely preserved and are safe to store for many years if you wish to delay the final taxidermy back home

All the best from Africa.





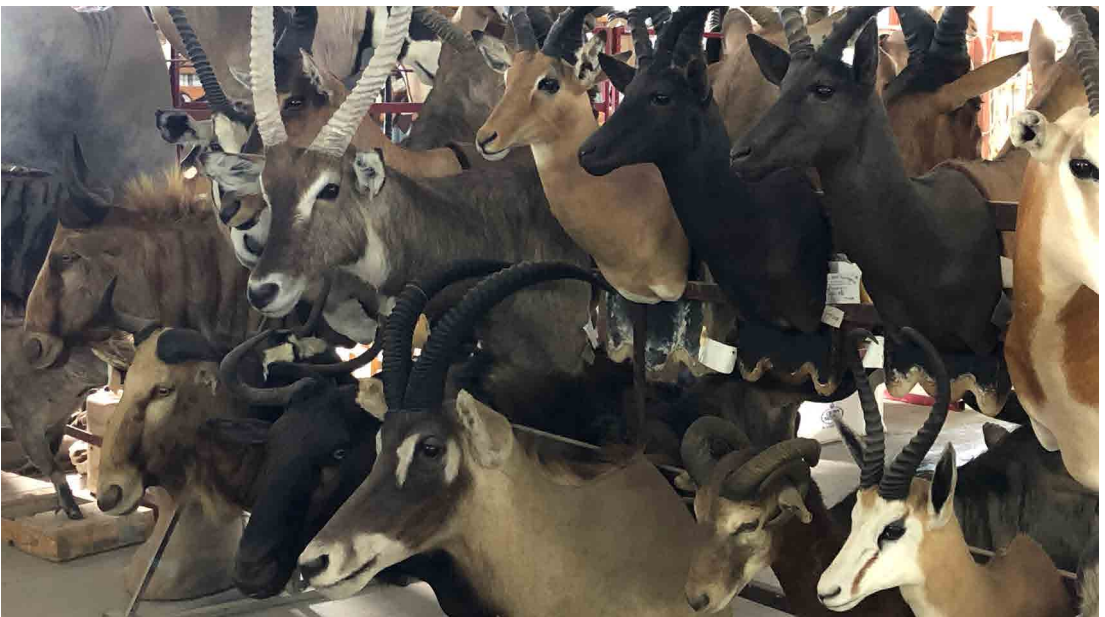


COST COMPARISONS

Shoulder mount: *Springbok, Blesbok, Impala, Kudu & Gemsbok.* (Cost at time of print)

SOUTH AFRICA Indicative prices to a Port of entry (air or ocean) excluding entry clearance and delivery charges	
5 x representative (AHG) Fees - Inc AIR freight	\$7,400
5 x representative (AHG) Fees - Inc OCEAN freight	\$4,900

USA (3 x average taxidermists)	
Dip & Pack (Fees in SA)	\$ 800
Air Freight of Dip & Pack	\$2,100
USA Taxidermy Costs	\$6,200
Total:	\$9,100





ACCESSORIES

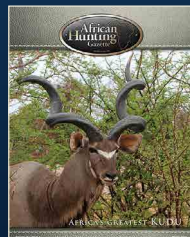
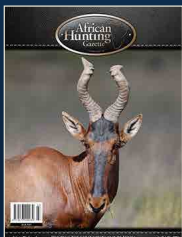
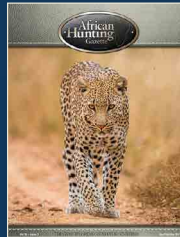
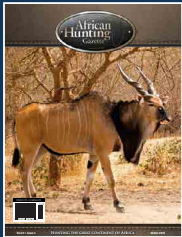
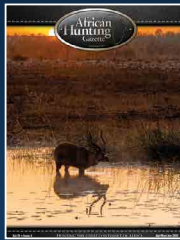
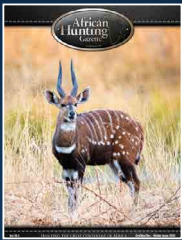
What you can do with your skulls and skins





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AHG BROKER SERVICES

Independent: On behalf of the international hunter, we work with any taxidermist or outfitter, collecting country wide.

International:

- Based in the USA (Montana) & South Africa (Afton, near Joburg's airport)
- Publishing the AHG and AHG Monthly, attending international shows

Our unique service:

- Field to trophy room service (and anything in between)
- We save you money, helping you hunt more
- We are committed to promoting hunting and doing what we can to bring more hunters to Africa through the *African Hunting Gazette*, AHG Monthly and attending international shows



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save money and
Hunt more*

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Afton is Africa's base for the African Hunting Gazette and AHG Trophy Shipping.

info@aftonsafarilodge.com / www.aftonsafarilodge.com

