Meat Salvage Requirements

Salvage of meat means to transport the meat to the location where it will be processed for human consumption. Alaska Hunting Regulations state that horns or antlers may be taken out of the field only after the meat is packed out and properly cared for, or with the last load of meat. Please note that salvage requirements vary by hunt area. Specific regulatory requirements and meat care instructions are available on the Alaska Department of Fish and Game website and in the hunting regulations booklet.

Know what to salvage

If you shoot a moose, caribou, sheep, mountain goat, wild reindeer, deer, elk, bison, or muskox, you must salvage:

- All the neck meat
- All the chest meat (brisket)
- All the meat of the ribs
- Front quarters to the knee
- Hindquarters to the hock
- All the meat along the backbone (backstrap and tenderloins)

Be sure to check the conditions for your hunt for any additional salvage requirements. You can show respect to the animal by using all of its parts!
What you should know!

Proper salvage and meat care are the most important parts of hunting.

**Take full responsibility for meat care**
Plan your hunt! Remember, in many Game Management Units, meat must be left on the bone while transported out of the field. Don’t shoot it if you can’t pack it out. It is your responsibility to keep your meat in good condition.

**Keep meat cool, clean, and dry**
Heat is the greatest threat to game meat. Game bags keep meat cool and clean while allowing the meat to dry. They also help prevent flies from laying eggs and reduces bacterial growth. Spraying meat with a mix of citric acid and water can also help prevent and reduce bacterial growth.

**Check services before you hunt**
Many rural areas do not have meat processing facilities. If you wish to send meat home, you need to make arrangements for packaging containers or coolers and have a shipping plan in place. Most air carriers in Alaska have specifics on shipping meat on their website.

**Consider donating your meat**
Some communities are interested in receiving donated meat. Meat must be kept in the best possible condition. For information on how to donate meat, contact your guide, transporter, or the state wildlife trooper in your area. Also, be sure to fill out the transfer of possession form which can be found in the back of the hunting regulations or on the ADF&G website.

For more information, search “meat care” on our website:
www.wildlife.alaska.gov

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