How to Field Dress a Grouse or Ptarmigan

Necessary Equipment:
• Rubber gloves
• Game shears
• Knife
• Garbage bag

Helpful Tips:
• Keep the bird out of water and debris after it has been harvested.
• Field dress the bird as quickly as possible to cool the meat.

1. Using your game shears, remove the head, feet, wings, and tail.

2. Pluck a handful of breast feathers to expose the skin of the breast.

3. Pinch the skin of the breast and peel the skin towards the wing stubs.

4. Remove all the skin and feathers from the breast and legs.

5. Put a finger at the end of the breast bone and pull towards the neck, opening up the body cavity.

6. With two fingers remove all of the organs.

7. Rinse any remaining feathers, blood, or entrails from the body and either package and freeze or prepare for cooking.

ATTENTION HUNTERS: The ADF&G is very interested in collecting hunter harvested grouse and ptarmigan wings. Biologists can determine the sex and age of a bird by examining one wing and tail. This information allows ADF&G to better understand the productivity and harvest composition of various populations. If you’re interested in assisting this effort please collect the following from each bird: 1) one, intact, clean wing, and 2) the tail. Place in a paper bag or ADF&G wing envelope and record the date and location of harvest. Drop off at your nearest ADF&G office.

For more information on small game in Alaska please visit: http://www.adfg.alaska.gov