

Manual for handling and packaging carcasses

Risks

The risks associated with handling and packaging carcasses are low, provided the finder takes proper precautions. **In particular, the sender should avoid any contact with animal blood or bodily fluids, and prevent being pricked or cut by the beak, teeth, claws, or any tools.**

Packaging and cooling

Properly double-wrapping the carcass prevents contamination of the environment during transport. Preferably, keep packaged carcasses refrigerated (+4°C) and deliver them within 24-36 hours.

Below are three different methods for picking up carcasses while packaging.

- **OPTION A:** You lift the carcass with gloves on to place it into the first bag.
- **OPTION B:** You place the first bag over the carcass, then lift and roll it into the bag (this is only possible with small carcasses).
- **OPTION C:** You lift the carcass using tools, such as a shovel or large tongs.

OPTION A:

Step A1

Protect yourself and wear disposable gloves (vinyl, PVC, latex [if not allergic], nitrile, or rubber gloves)



Step A2

Use two heavy, leak-proof, strong plastic bags of the appropriate size. The bags must be thick enough not to be punctured by beaks, claws, nails, etc. They should be large enough to fully contain the carcass and be properly sealed (preferably with zip ties, or string if necessary). Open one bag and roll the open edge halfway outward (*photos 2a & 2b*). Place the bag like a basket on a surface that has not been contaminated by the carcass, and do the same with the other bag (*photo 2c*).



Step A3

Place this as a basket as well, on a clean surface (*photo 3*).



Step A4

Lift the carcass with gloved hands and carefully place it into the first bag without contaminating your clothing or the outside of the bag (*photo 4*). If the carcass has sharp pointed ends, these can be wrapped with newspapers to prevent perforation of the bag.



Step A5

Your gloves are now dirty.

Remove the dirty gloves by turning them inside out. With one gloved hand, grasp the outside of the other glove at the wrist (*photo 5a*), pull it inside out (*photo 5b*), and drop it into the bag with the carcass. Now remove the second glove by also turning it inside out, making sure that your bare fingers only touch the inside of the glove (*photos 5c & 5d*). Drop the second glove into the bag with the carcass as well.

For extra precaution, you may now put on a clean pair of gloves (*see photos 1a to 1d*), but normally they will remain clean from this point on.



Step A6

Now carefully roll the first bag all the way up without touching the inside (*photo 6*).



Step A7

Seal the bag tightly with a zip tie and label it. (*photo 7*).

The label should include: **species** and, if applicable, a **number** (e.g., wildlife tag number), the **name**, **address**, and **telephone number** of the finder, as well as the **date** and **location** of discovery/ shooting.



Step A8

Then place the first bag into the second bag without touching the outside (*photo 8a*). If applicable, now also remove the second pair of gloves as described above (*photos A5a-d & photo 8b*).

Roll up the second bag and seal it with a zip tie as well, address and label it (*photos 6, 7, 8c-d*).

You have worked cleanly, but as a precaution, wash your hands with water and soap if possible and disinfect them.



OPTION B:

Step B1 → same as Step A1

(You can put on a pair of gloves just to be sure, but normally you will remain clean.)

Step B2 → same as Step A2

Step B3

You turn Bag 1, which has been rolled halfway outward, inside out over your gloved hands (*photo 9*).

Step B4

You then place the bag around the carcass with your hands (*Photo 10a*); and grasp the carcass through the bag (*photo 10b*).

Step B5

With a slow, smooth, rotating movement of 180° away from yourself, the carcass is lifted and the bag can be unrolled at the same time. The outside of the bag does not come into contact with the contaminated ground, and your gloves do not touch either the carcass or the contaminated inside of the bag. Therefore, the outside of the bag and your gloves remain clean (*photos 11a & 11b*).

Continue as in **Step A6** to **A8** of **OPTION A**.



OPTION C:

Step C1 → same as **Step A1**

(You can put on a pair of gloves just to be sure, but normally you will remain clean.)

Step C2 → same as **Step A2**

Step C3 → same as **Step A3**.

Step C4

Lift the carcass with the tool and carefully place it into bag 1, avoiding splashing and contaminating the outside of the bag (Photo 12).

You can roll down the bag from the outside.

Now clean the tool.

Continue with Step A5 (if you used gloves and they became contaminated while cleaning the tool),

or otherwise proceed with Step A6 through Step A8 of OPTION A.

Continue with **Step A5**

(if you used gloves and they became contaminated while cleaning the tool), otherwise **Step A6** to **Step A8** of **OPTION A**.

