



Taxidermy Order Details

There are two types of orders, ***Complete Work or Dip & Pack.***

Complete Work – All Shoulder Mounts and European Mounts to be done here

Dip & Pack – Trophies to be prepared and exported to be done abroad.

Umlilo Safaris takes zero responsibility on any client's trophies when Dip & Pack.

Any and all issues raised by the client's taxidermist who is mounting the trophies, is for the client, not Umlilo Safaris.

On the last day of your safari with us, we will document, in detail, all the Taxidermy work that needs to be done and any other queries you might have.

Date Quote Sent to Client

The actual date that quote was sent, either in person or email/fax. As far as possible, we will provide you with the quote on the last day of your safari. It is recommended that you pay the deposit then, but alternatively you can make payment once you are back home. Bank details will be provided.

Date Deposit/Full amount Received

Actual date funds are available in our account. Complete work orders require a 40% deposit and Dip & Pack orders the full amount.

✚ **VERY IMPORTANT** – Due to the very high volume of Taxidermy work that we undertake, we work on a first come first serve basis. We only start with a group's order if and when EVERYBODY in that group has paid their necessary deposit.

The moment a group has made full payment, their order goes onto the roster. The quickness of payments determines where each order is in the queue on the roster. If a group took a while to make payment, their order will be at the back of the queue.

HOWEVER, from the day that all payments have been received, ALL trophies in that order will be crated and ready for collection by the shipping company within 10-12 months.

❖ **Date Step 1 Started – Preparation**

Estimated time 4 weeks

This step commences once your order reaches the front of the queue. All trophies are delivered to the Taxidermy studio marked up with your details, well salted and completely dried out.

During this period all skins have to be hydrated and all skulls have to be boiled and cleaned thoroughly. All excess meat have to be removed. Skins are left to soak in a mixture of water and chemicals to hydrate, kill any possible living organisms and clean and get it to a workable state. Once this is done, the skin are trimmed and goes into a tannery process. This labour intensive process thins out the skin to a degree that it can be handled and mounted. It is a very delicate time in the process.

Once this step has been completed, your order will join the queue for the next step.

❖ **Date Step 2 Started – Moulding**

Estimated time 4 weeks

All moulds used are made in house. We have different shapes and sizes for each specie. During this period it is decided which size mould is best suited for each of the species in the order. Each mould is then cast using foam. Once the moulds are dry, they are removed from the casts and well inspected and finished off. On some occasions, if the taxidermist is not happy with the mould, it will be re done.

We prefer this method over the method of buying pre made moulds that come in certain sizes. By casting our own moulds, we can get much closer to the actual shape and size of the animal that was hunted.

Once this step has been completed, your order will join the queue for the next step.

❖ **Date Step 3 Started – Mounting**

Estimated time 5 weeks

Now the skin actually gets fitted onto the mould. This is where the art of Taxidermy starts. The skin needs to fit over the mould like a glove. The skin actually gets put on the mould and removed numerous amounts of time. The shape and size of the mount are carefully scalped with scalping clay that is kept moist until the taxidermist is happy with the outcome. During this stage the shape of the muscles, the angles of the horns, the angle of the ears, the shape of the face, the eyes, etc. are formed and fixed in place. A light timber back plate is then also attached to the back of the trophy to fix the skin in place, finish the trophy off and also to enable you to hang the trophy on your wall.

Once the taxidermist is happy with the mount, he makes sure all skin are kept in place with staples and lets it stand for a minimum of 3 weeks to set and dry.

Once this step has been completed, your order will join the queue for the next step.

❖ **Date Step 4 Started – Setting**

Estimated time 3 weeks

During this period the taxidermist will daily visit each mount for a quick inspection. Due to our extreme weather patterns, it is very important to constantly check how well the trophies set. At

the end of the 3 week period, each trophy goes through a final inspection, before it is moved to the next step.

Depending on the weather and the size of the trophies, this step can sometimes move to 4 weeks.

Once this step has been completed, your order will join the queue for the next step.

❖ **Date Step 5 Started – Finishing**

Estimated time 4 weeks

Appearance wise, this is the most important step. During this step, all trophies are cleaned thoroughly and all dust and loose particles removed by hand, brush or air. It does sometime take a while to remove all the small clay particles, especially on the mounts with longer hair.

All trophies horns are now polished up and the final make up added.

All the natural colours are added to the facial areas of the nose, ears and eyes. It has to look exactly like it does in the wild.

Once the Taxidermist is finished, it is left for a day to dry before a final inspection is done. If it passes the inspection, it moves on to the next step.

Once this step has been completed, your order will join the queue for the next step.

❖ **Date Step 6 Started – Crating**

Estimated time 2 weeks

Once the trophy has passed its final inspection as in the previous step, it gets individually wrap in plastic. This stops any dust from settling on trophies.

Timber gets delivered as and when needed. Crates are built to the smallest size possible and are therefore only built once all trophies are wrapped up. Once the crate is completed and all trophies packed, the shipping company gets a notification to collect.

🚦 **Permit Status**

This probably is the biggest issue in the whole process. There are 3 types of permits that are generally needed and they are an Ordinary Export Permit, TOPS Permit and CITIES Permit.

All permit applications are lodge during Step 3 of the Taxidermy Process.

Ordinary Export Permit – This permit is needed for ALL trophies. Once we lodge the application with Nature Conservation, it takes a minimum of 3 months to issue and is valid for 12 months from the date of issue. If for any reason the trophies are not exported during this 12 month period, the permit has to be re-applied for. This again takes 3 months.

TOPS Permit – Few animals such as the Common Reedbuck, Black Wildebeest, Oribi, etc fall under this controlled specie list and this permit has to be obtained for export.

Once we lodge the application with Nature Conservation, it takes a minimum of 3 months to issue and is valid for 6 months from the date of issue. If for any reason the trophies are not exported during this 6 month period, the permit has to be re-applied for. This again takes 3 months.

CITIES Permit – Few animals such as Baboon, Monkey and all the Cat family falls under the CITIES regulations and this permit has to be obtained for export.

Once we lodge the application with Nature Conservation, it takes a minimum of 3 months to issue and is valid for 6 months from the date of issue. If for any reason the trophies are not exported during this 6 month period, the permit has to be re-applied for. This again takes 3 months.

We always encounter problems with the permits. It is mainly caused by the late payment of client(s) that are in a group. Some clients pay on time, while others simply do not respond when payments are requested. This then holds up the whole order.

❖ **Date Balance Requested**

When Step 5 of the Taxidermy Process is reached, you will be asked to pay the balance of your original quote. This will be emailed or faxed to you and will include Bank Details.

Please remember that no trophies in a group will be crated UNTIL all account are paid.

❖ **Date Balance Received**

Actual date funds are available in our account. Once received, Step 6 will be completed.

❖ **Date Trophies Crated**

This is a reference point for all to work from. Again, it enables each client to track his trophies at all times.

Once trophies are crated, shipping agent is contacted and arrangements are made to have the crate picked up and delivered to shipping depot.

Please note:

On completion of mounting, photos are sent to each client of every trophy and the crate after it is packed. If client is satisfied, the crate is sealed. Once the crate leaves the taxidermy studio, any and all responsibility passes to the client.

It is up to the client to take the option of insurance or not with regards to the shipping.