



Guidelines for the Importation of Ruminant, Swine, and Bird Trophies

A. Fully taxidermy finished trophies:

Fully taxidermy finished¹ trophies have unrestricted entry according to import regulations maintained by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS), National Center for Import and Export (NCIE). However, the importer should contact the Department of Interior, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for their import requirements.

¹Fully taxidermy finished refers to the professionally cleaned (free of dirt, blood, insects, putrid odors, etc.), processed and preserved hunted animal or parts of the animal. These trophies have been professionally prepared, and they may be stuffed, mounted, for the purpose of personal exhibit. If fully taxidermy finished trophies are shipped with unfinished trophies they will be subjected to the same restrictions as trophies that are not fully taxidermy finished. The remainder of this document provides guidance mainly for importing trophies which are not fully taxidermy finished (“unfinished”).

B. Hides and Skins:

Hides and skins of ruminants, swine and birds are eligible to be imported UNRESTRICTED if one or more of the following conditions is met:

1. Ruminant hides/skins:

- a. The ruminant hide has been processed into a finished product (i.e. leather, rug, jacket, etc.)
- b. The ruminant hides were derived from ruminant animals that originated from countries free of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) and Rinderpest (RP). A certificate of origin may be requested by port inspector as proof of origin.
- c. The ruminant hides/skins are flint-dried (hard-dried).
- d. The ruminant hides have been tanned.
- e. The ruminant hides/skins have been pickled in a salt solution containing mineral acid and the pH is verified to be 5 or lower.
- f. The ruminant hides have been limed and dehaired and are pliable.

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2. Swine hides/skins:

- a. The swine hide has been processed into a finished product (i.e. leather, rug, etc.)
- b. The swine hides were derived from swine that originated from countries **free** of FMD, RP and African swine fever (ASF) diseases. A certificate of origin may be requested by port inspector as proof of origin.
- c. The swine hides have been tanned.
- d. The swine hides/skins have been flint-dried and originate from countries considered by USDA to be free of ASF. A certificate of origin may be requested by port inspector as proof of origin.
- e. The swine hides/skins have been pickled in salt solution containing mineral acid and the pH is verified to be 5 or lower.
- f. The swine hides have been limed and dehaired and are pliable.

3. Bird hides/skins “capcs”

- a. The bird cape has been processed into a finished product (i.e. leather, mount, etc.)
- b. The bird capes were derived from birds that originated from countries free of exotic Newcastle disease (END) and highly pathogenic avian influenza subtype H5N1 (HPAI, H5N1). A certificate of origin may be requested by port inspector as proof of origin.
- c. The bird capes originated from a HPAI, H5N1 free country and have been adequately processed according to USDA, APHIS, VS.

4. If none of the previous conditions are met, the ruminant, swine, or bird hides/skins/capes must be consigned to a USDA approved establishment for treatment to guard against the dissemination of FMD, RP diseases and END.² USDA, APHIS, VS, NCIE does not place bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) restrictions on ruminant hides³.

²Please note: This option DOES NOT apply to bird skins/capes that originated from countries that USDA, APHIS, VS, NCIE considers to be affected with HPAI, H5N1. These bird skins/capes must be processed in the country of origin to inactivate the HPAI, H5N1 virus and be imported accompanied by an import permit issued by USDA, APHIS, VS, NCIE.

³ To view the country disease status listing as considered by USDA, APHIS, VS, NCIE, please visit our website at www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/ncie/country.html.

C. Bones:

1. Definition:

Title 9, Code of Federal Regulations (9CFR) makes a distinction between bones imported as trophies (Part 95.11) and bones that do not meet the conditions and requirements of a trophy (Part 95.12). It states that bones imported as trophies that are clean and dry and free of undried pieces of flesh, hide, and sinew may be imported without further restrictions.

Therefore, it is important to understand USDA, APHIS, VS, NCIE's definition of trophy.

For the purpose of this document, **bone "trophies" are defined as, the bones (including skulls, antlers, teeth, horns and hoofs) of an animal carcass that can be used as a remembrance or souvenir of "the hunt" that are in a condition suitable for immediate mounting and are for personal use only. Distribution in any commercial channel is prohibited.**

Shipments of "bony souvenirs of a hunt" that DO NOT meet the USDA, APHIS, VS's definition of "trophy," will be regulated as a shipment of commercial bones⁴.

⁴Please note: Commercial shipments of ruminant bones (except cervid bones from Canada) are prohibited from regions considered by USDA, APHIS, VS, NCIE to be affected with/or at risk of having BSE as listed in 9CFR Part 94.18(a).

A copy of the importer's hunting license/permit will be required to determine whether a shipment of bones is to be considered trophy instead of commercial. The hunting license/permit (or other documentation that conclusively demonstrates lawful possession of a game animal) from the country of origin must be issued by the foreign government (at the Federal, Regional, or Departmental level), not by the outfitter. This documentation must be in English or be accompanied by a government endorsed English translation, and it should identify the animal species and (if applicable) indicate to the quantity of animals allowed to be hunted. The USDA limits the quantity of bone trophies allowed to be imported to those taken from 2 animals unless a greater number is authorized by the hunting license/permit.

2. Import Requirements:

a. Ruminant bony trophies (including bones, antlers, teeth, skulls, horns, etc.) may be imported into the U.S. under the following conditions (which are subject to port inspector verification):

1) The ruminant bony trophies are clean (free of dirt, blood, insects, etc.), dry, free of undried pieces of hide, flesh, sinew, **AND** the bones are offered as trophies, (or for consignment to a museum) provided there is no distribution into commercial channels.

Such ruminant trophy or museum bones, (even though not fully taxidermy finished) can be released to the importer or broker without restrictions.

2) Ruminant bony trophies which do not meet the conditions above, may be imported if consigned to a USDA approved establishment where they will be treated or processed in a manner to guard against the dissemination of FMD, RP and anthrax. NOTE ***As mentioned above, commercial shipments of ruminant bones (except cervid bones from Canada) are prohibited from regions considered by USDA to be affected with/or at risk of having BSE.

b. Swine bony trophies (including bones, teeth, tusks, etc).

1) Originating from a country considered by USDA to be **free** of ASF:

a) The swine bony trophies that are clean (free of dirt, blood, insects, etc.), dry, free of undried pieces of hide, flesh, sinew, **AND** offered for entry as trophies (provided there is no distribution into commercial channels) have unrestricted entry.

b) Swine bony trophies which do not meet the conditions provided in “a” above (i.e. the trophies are dirty or are for commercial distribution), may be imported if consigned to a USDA approved establishment where they will be treated or processed in a manner to guard against the dissemination of FMD, RP and anthrax.

2) Originating from countries considered by USDA to be **affected** with ASF (regardless of cleanliness):

a) These swine bony trophies must be consigned to a USDA approved establishment.

D. Trophies from Canada

1. All of the above conditions apply to trophies that originate in Canada, except for cervid (deer, elk, moose, and caribou) trophies.

2. Cervid trophies – The USDA has not imposed any restrictions on cervid products from BSE minimal-risk regions (Canada) because of BSE. Therefore, cervid trophies from Canada are not subject to BSE restrictions. Hunters may import their cervid trophy that was hunted in Canada without restriction. Hunters should have documentation that demonstrates proof of Canadian origin for their cervid trophies (i.e. Canadian hunting license/certificate [Provincial, Tribal or CFIA issued], Game Farm or Outfitter receipt, or other document provided by the Game farm or Outfitter, etc.). Hunters are also advised to contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for their import requirements.