**09-137 DEPARTMENT OF INLAND FISHERIES & WILDLIFE**

**Chapter 20: TAXIDERMY LICENSE**

* 1. **SCOPE**

1. No person may commercially engage in the art of taxidermy without first obtaining a valid and current taxidermist license from the Commissioner as authorized in 12 M.R.S. §12953. A valid and current taxidermist license authorizes the licensee to receive and temporarily possess, for taxidermy purposes only, properly tagged fish and wildlife.

**20.02 DEFINITIONS**

1. **Taxidermy:** the art of preparing, stuffing and/or mounting the skins of fish, wildlife, or parts thereof, so as to make them appear lifelike.

2. **Raw Skins:** the unprocessed skins of fish or wildlife in their natural condition and not processed by any form of tanning.

3. **Skull Mount:** the preservation of bones, skulls and antlers to be free of tissue and odor.

**20.03** **CLASSIFICATION OF TAXIDERMY LICENSING**

1. **General Classification:** a person who has met the qualifications to perform taxidermy on fish and wildlife, which include the Classifications within this section, 2 through 4.

2. **Mammals and Heads** **Classification:** a person who has met the qualifications to perform taxidermy on all mammals and heads of mammals.

3. **Bird Classification:** a person who has met the qualifications to perform taxidermy on birds.

4. **Fish** **Classification:** a person who has met the qualifications to perform taxidermy on fish.

5. **Reptile and Amphibian Classification:** a person who has met the qualifications to perform taxidermy on reptiles and amphibians.

6. **Skull Mount, Bone, Antler Classification:** a person who has met the qualifications to prepare skulls for mounting including skeletal articulation.

7. **Freeze-Dried Classification:** a person who has met the qualifications to prepare fish, wildlife or parts thereof for preservation by utilizing the freeze-drying process.

**20.04** **ELIGIBILITY**

1. A person who has been convicted of violating the conditions or authorizations of any state or federal fish and wildlife taxidermy permit or who has failed to submit the reports required by any previous taxidermy license is not eligible to apply for or renew a taxidermy license.

**20.05 EXAMINATION**

1. **Written**: Applicants must satisfactorily complete a written examination for each license classification for which they apply. A passing score on the written examination must be 70% or higher in each section of the examination. Applicants will be notified the day of the written exam(s) as to the results. Unsuccessful applicants must wait a minimum of 14 days before retesting. There are no written exams for the Skull and Bone, Reptile and Amphibian or the Freeze-Dried Classifications.

2. **Oral**: Applicants who successfully pass the written exam(s), will have an oral exam for each classification for which they apply. Unsuccessful applicants must wait a minimum of 30 days before retesting for that classification. The following species mounted by the applicant within the last three years must be presented for inspection at the oral examination:

A. **Bird applicant**: one native bird mount with feet and legs visible.

B. **Fish applicant**: one native fish mount.

C. **Mammal and Head applicant**: one native antlered whitetail deer head mount and one native small mammal no bigger than a fox.

D. **General applicant**: all of the above.

E. **Reptile and Amphibian:** one native reptile or amphibian.

F. **Skull and Bone applicant**: one skull.

G. **Freeze-Dried applicant:** any two native specimens from the following list: a small mammal, bird, fish, reptile or amphibian.

3. **Judging criteria for license applicants and competency standards for current license holders:** Each mount presented will be judged by the board members using the criteria listed below. Additionally, current license holders shall adhere to the following competency standards or may be found incompetent or negligent in the practice of taxidermy, which could result in the suspension or revocation of their license. License applicants and current license holders shall:

**A. Provide specimens that are professional in quality, lifelike and realistic in appearance, including but not limited to the following**:

i. **Workmanship:** This will include proportion, muscle structure, setting of the eyes and antlers, proper placement of ears, wings, feet and legs, workmanship around lips, nose, durability of work and lifelike articulation.

ii. **Sewing**: Seams must not be visible and must be completely closed. Patching of skin must be of the same color and texture. Pins, staples or wires cannot be visible.

iii. **Ears**: Paper or plastic liners or other media should be used in whitetail deer head ears. All ears must be tight with no drumming or bridging.

iv. **Restoration of color**: Any color used must give a natural appearance. Overpainting and over-filling is not acceptable.

v. **Preservation**: Any part subject to deterioration must be adequately preserved. All specimens especially fish will be checked for objectionable odors.

vi. **Cleanliness of specimen**: Evidence of grease, blood, dirt, glue, borax, sawdust, etc., on specimen is not acceptable. Skull mounts should be clean and free of tissue, odor, and oils and should be whitened and sealed.

vii. **Support strength**: Wires or rods used for support in legs, necks, wings, etc., must be of sufficient strength for their intended use.

viii. **Miscellaneous:** To pass the examination, all mounts must be acceptable and satisfactory. Novelties are not acceptable. All specimens must be found in the wild in Maine. Excuses for poor quality work such as not being able to secure proper or decent specimens will not be accepted.

**20.06 RECORD KEEPING AND COMPLETION REQUIREMENTS FOR CURRENT LICENSE HOLDERS**

1. In accordance with 12 M.R.S. 12952 a current taxidermy license holder shall adhere to general record keeping requirements. Additionally, the license holder shall complete in their entirety, Department log books that contain specific information requirements. A taxidermist who fails to follow these requirements may be found incompetent or negligent in the practice of taxidermy and as a result may have their license suspended or revoked.
2. Complete work in a timely manner: based upon written agreement between the license holder and a customer, a taxidermist shall complete the end product in the time period agreed upon.

**20.07** **ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS AND RESTRICTIONS AFTER A TAXIDERMIST IS NO LONGER LICENSED**

1. It shall be unlawful for a person who was previously licensed as a taxidermist to keep fish and wildlife specimens belonging to customers who hired the taxidermist to complete a mount. The taxidermist is responsible for keeping adequate contact information for customers. The specimens must be returned to the rightful owner immediately if:

A. A person fails to renew their taxidermy license or

B. A person’s taxidermy license is suspended or revoked.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 12 M.R.S. §§ 10104, 12952, 12953

EFFECTIVE DATE:

August 2, 1988 – filing 88-251

AMENDED:

January 11, 1995 – filing 95-15

NON-SUBSTANTIVE CHANGES:

February 2, 1999 - converted to Microsoft Word

AMENDED:

February 18, 2014 – filing 2014-019

April 18, 2016 – filing 2016-067

June 3, 2019 – filing 2019-090