



## **10 Ways to Show Honor and Respect for Your Kill**

Taking an animal's life is a serious and meaningful event that evokes a variety of emotions for hunters with differing personalities. Some of us enthusiastically pump fists and laugh out of excitement, and some of us remain stoic. Regardless of how we express ourselves, we should honor the animal and be respectful of the resource from which we have harvested. Here are ways to do so.

### **Give Thanks**

No matter your religious beliefs, killing an animal offers an opportunity to give thanks. Many of us choose to honor the animal through prayer and give thanks to God. If that's not your preference, that's okay. We're all hunters on the same team. It is still thoughtful and respectful to take a moment, acknowledge that an animal laid down its life for you, and be thankful.

### **Recover the Animal Quickly**

You owe it to your harvest to recover it as quickly as possible to maximize the consumable meat. Once you take the shot, recovery should be your number one priority.

### **Clean the Animal Thoroughly**

It's important to thoroughly and correctly prepare your harvest for processing and/or consumption. Rain, wind, cold, heat, etc., all dampen our desire to stand over a harvest with our knife in hand. However, field dressing is as much a part of the hunt as pulling the trigger or releasing an arrow. Be responsible and do a thorough job.

### **Share the Meat**

We're surrounded by people who are important to our hunting lifestyle. Landowners, family members, neighboring property owners, the list is endless. Use your success in the field to be kind to others and bless them with the gift of wild game. Consider preparing a dish and including the recipe. Food is a great icebreaker and it honors the animal to share it.

## **Take Good Photos**

In today's world, there is no excuse for taking sloppy hunting photos. Our smart phones have great cameras for taking photos and there are dozens of phone apps for improving lighting, color, and adding effects to your photos. Many articles teach basic hunting photography tips. Photos give you a physical reference for recalling the memory, sharing the story, and remembering the special moment. Honor the animal by positioning it tastefully, and taking good photos.

## **Share Your Experience on Social Media**

It's easier now than ever to share the hunting lifestyle with the world. Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, Twitter and more give hunters platforms to share hunting stories, moments, and memories. With these great tools comes great responsibility as both hunters and non-hunters are watching. Social media is your chance to represent all hunters with class and showcase your devotion to the game animals we pursue. Share your photos, videos, and stories respectfully and humbly. Non-hunters can be more understanding of our lifestyle if we position the animal (not the hunter) as the hero of a hunt. It's important to remember that.

## **Teach Someone Else to Hunt**

If hunting is truly your favorite thing to do, how can you not share it with someone else? Showing someone that game animals and their habitat are important natural resources is a fantastic way to honor the animals we pursue. Challenge yourself to teach someone how to hunt!

## **Support State Wildlife Agencies by Being Lawful and Helpful**

Respect the law and the animal by following the seasons, bag limits, reporting instructions, and rules set by your state wildlife agency. Follow the law, with no exceptions and be helpful. If your state wildlife agency sends you a survey, take the time to fill it out and return it. Hunters are the eyes and ears in the woods for game managers, and it's our job to help them make the best decisions for wildlife.

# **HAPPY HUNTING AND FISHING!!**