



Transportation
Security
Administration

Fact Sheet

October 8, 2003

TSA TRAVEL TIPS FOR THE HUNTING SEASON

1. Meat, fish or other perishable food items:
 - Frozen meat is best and easier to ship. If not frozen then make sure meat is placed in a plastic leak-proof bag. A person is allowed five pounds of dry ice inside with their frozen items.
 - Shipping in a wax box or cooler clearly marked "frozen or perishable food", is the best way to prevent leaks and thawing.
 - Hunters cannot ship a Styrofoam box. If the meat is in a Styrofoam box, it then must be put into a cardboard box.
 - Most air carriers have a bag weight limit of 50 pounds and passengers are limited to two checked bags each, but check with your local air carrier. The items to be shipped can also be shipped freight or cargo through the airline. Contact your air carrier to find out what the time restraints are and if they have freezer space for when the items arrive at their destination. Meat can also be shipped with other common shippers like Fed-ex and UPS.

2. Skulls, hides or skins:
 - All skulls, hides, or skins must be packaged in leak-proof plastic inside a wax box, cooler, or any other cardboard box.
 - All skulls, hides, or skins should be clean and have as much of the flesh removed as possible to prevent the infestation of insects.
 - Possession of skulls, hides, and or skins should be in accordance with all Federal Fish & Wildlife, State Department of Fish & Game, and local regulations.

3. Antlers:
 - If hunters wish to ship antlers home, they need to contact the air carrier directly. The air carrier's determination will be based on the size and weight of the antlers, the final destination, and the rules of the other air carriers the antlers will be transported on.

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4. Weapons and Ammunition:

- Hunters may take their weapons as checked baggage only. Firearms cannot be carried onto the aircraft.
- All firearms must be declared to the air carrier. Failure to declare the weapon may result in a law enforcement officer being notified and the passenger possibly being subject to a fine and/or arrest.
- All firearms must be unloaded.
- Rifles must be in a hard-sided locked gun case.
- Pistols must be in a hard-sided locked gun case or a hard sided locked suitcase.
- All ammunition must be in a manufacture-approved container, such as the box they are purchased in. All ammunition not in a manufacture-approved container will be confiscated.
- Ammunition and the firearm may be in the same hard-sided locked gun case or suit case.
- Knives, multi-tools, meat and/or bone saws, or other skinning tools must also be shipped as checked baggage. Any sharp object, such as a Leatherman or Gerber, any type of knife, and/or knife sharpener **must be surrendered to screeners** at the security checkpoint if a passenger has them in his or her carry-on baggage **or on their person**.
- Bows and arrows need to be secured inside a locked carrying case and shipped as checked baggage.

5. Clothing and Hunting Equipment:

- Any persons clothing can be sent as checked baggage as long as it follows the air carrier's rules of baggage size and limit.
- Stoves that work off of fuel need to be free of all fuel residues, including fumes.
- Fuels, bear sprays, strike anywhere matches, fire starters, survival flares, and other flammable objects are considered hazardous materials and are forbidden on all air carriers.
- Remember that a bag that you use in the field to store or carry hunting equipment, firearms, or ammunition may have residue from those materials that may cause the TSA's explosive detection equipment to alarm. If this occurs, that bag will have to be opened and physically searched. To avoid this scenario, we recommend that you clean any such bag or use another similar bag when you travel.

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