

Today we're gonna take up "Grooming Pelts."

Trappers and dog hunters, who collect hides from furbearers to sell, must properly take care of their fur or they will be docked by the buyer when they go to sell.

I assume you have taken pains dispatching your quarry, if you have blown their head off with a 12 gauge shotgun you can forget it. You have been careful skinning your catch and haven't cut any holes. I hope you have been extra careful skinning around their mouth, eyes, nose and ears.

Now supposing you have a hide that you have taken from the animal properly and you have spent the time to get all the fat and flesh off the hide (called fleshing it) you should "groom the pelt."

Comb all the cockleburs, sandburs and foreign matter out and stitch up any holes the hide may have in it. Next make a stretcher that will just fit the size of the hide. Turn the hide so that the proper side will be out (fur side or hide side) and stretch the hide onto the stretcher.

As the hide dries you should wipe away any excess grease that forms on the hide.

When cured, a hide taken care of in this manner will bring top dollar.