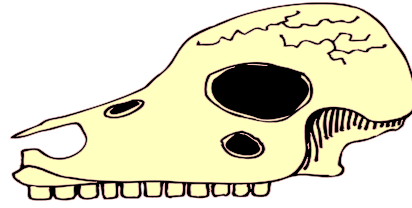


Cleaning skulls



Skin the skull and pull away any flesh, or alternatively, leave the skull outside in a protective area, or buried to let carrion beetles clean most of the flesh away.

On an outdoor stove, simmer the skull in a hot water with a small amount of dish detergent for 30 minutes, keeping the skull covered with water. If portions of the skull, such as deer antlers stick out of the pot, cover the whole thing with aluminum foil to help steam circulate.

Use needlenose pliers, and metal picks to pull any remaining ligaments from the skull. If desired, glue lower jaws in place.

Immerse the cleaned skull in a solution of one part 3% peroxide solution and two parts water for 24 hours. If doing a deer skull, do not let the solution touch the antlers. Use cotton balls soaked with peroxide to work this area.

Air dry.

Submitted by Rick Glassman, St. Joseph County Soil and Water Conservation District.

Be sure you have appropriate permits or an appropriate hunting license to possess skulls. Check with your state DNR for information. Bird parts and skulls require a federal permit.