

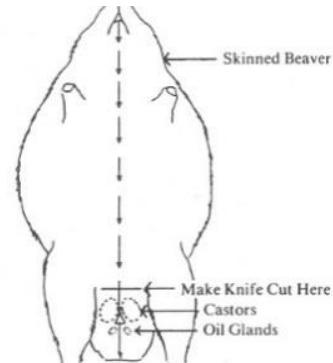


# TRAPPER REFERENCE SHEET

## HOW TO REMOVE AND DRY BEAVER CASTORS FOR AUCTION

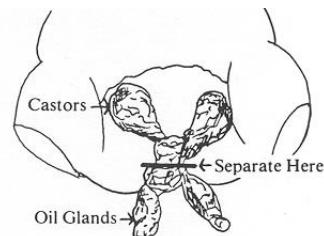
### STEP 1

Once the beaver is skinned, use a sharp knife to make an incision two (2) inches above vent hole. The castors will be under a thin membrane of muscle and the castors will appear light brown and scaly.



### STEP 2

Once you see the castor glands, pinch the thin layer of muscle membrane to pull the membrane off of the castor. Using your knife, carefully cut through the membrane layer exposing a part of the beaver castor.



### STEP 3

Using your fingertips only (no fingernails), carefully remove the muscle membrane (pink/red membrane) from around the entire beaver castor freeing the beaver castor. (Do not pull on the beaver castor too hard or it will tear open). The oil glands are left on the skinned beaver.

### STEP 4

Pull the freed beaver castor down towards the tail. You'll see a thin, transparent (see through), piece of clear membrane that's attached. You'll have to make two cuts to properly remove the castor from the beaver.

### STEP 5

The first cut is from the penis, cut the membrane in a clear place between the penis and castor. Same cut on females but there's no penis and only transparent, clear, membrane.

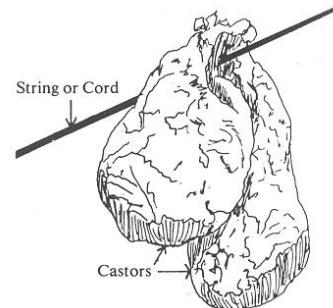


**STEP 6**

The second cut is to free the castor from the beaver. This cut is made where the castors are connected to the vent. Once this second cut is done the castors have been removed from the carcass. The next step is to hang the castors to dry.

**STEP 7**

Tie a length of string between two nails in your skinning shed. Tie knots every four (4) inches on the string to ensure castors do not move once on the string. This will ensure the drying beaver castor do not slide to the middle and rest against other castors that are also drying. You can also hang the castors on a nail too if that works better for you. Place beaver castors onto knotted string or nails to dry.

**STEP 8**

Ensure the temperature in your shed is between 15-21 degrees Celsius. Also, the humidity levels in your skinning/drying shed affects the drying time. The NWT is dry so as long as you don't have any moisture in your shed, it should take 7 days to dry the castor.

**STEP 9**

Following this drying schedule:

- After two days, open beaver castors up to allow the center to dry. Flip the castor around so that the center is now on the outside on both sides.
- After four days, flip the beaver castor again to ensure even drying of castor.
- After six days, flip the beaver castors again to ensure even drying of castor.
- After seven days, remove castor(s) from string or nail and place them in your freezer in a paper or onion bag. Never store or ship castors in a plastic bag as they will rot. Castors need to breathe. Rotten castors are not saleable and will be declared no-value and will be disposed of.

**STEP 10**

When you're ready to bring in your castors to ENR, take them out of the freezer and place them on cardboard or re-hang them for a day or two. This will help with any additional moisture that may be in them.

**STEP 11**

At the ENR office, the officer will inspect them. If they are properly dried, the harvester will receive the advance and a promissory number. Approximately 8 dried castors make one pound, and one pound of dried castors will receive the advance of \$65.