

# PELT HANDLING CONTEST

## **The Purpose of The Pelt Handling Contests**

Pelt handling contests are to promote the educational aspects of preparing pelts for market under a friendly but competitive atmosphere. It is also intended to educate as well as entertain those who do not wish to enter but who want to further expand and improve their own pelt handling techniques.

## **Contest Rules For Pelt Handling**

For the Fur Harvesters Auction's Convention, the pelt competition and handling rules will be low keyed and informal. However, there are a number of rules that will pertain to the contests.

1. Contests will be open to any interested persons. Everybody is welcome to compete. In order to cover some of the cost for the awards, a minimal entrance fee of \$3.00 per contest will be applied.
2. The competitors will be allowed to enter one fur pelt for each species.
3. For pelting contests inside the Fur Harvesters building, only one animal per contestant will be permitted.
4. For the timed and no-time limit contests, beaver, otter, raccoon and muskrat will be supplied by Fur Harvesters Auction.
5. Best handled pelts will be prepared at home. The deadline for these pelts is 1:00 p.m. Saturday, March 29, 2008. Pelts will be entered for the contest in the receiving room. They can also be sent to Fur Harvesters prior to the convention, but please specify clearly your intention of entering them for competition.
6. Contestants entering any pelt handling contest must register before the competition begins. NOTE: There will be a limited amount of raccoon, beaver, otter, and muskrat available. Contests requiring in-house animals will be on a first come basis. Contestants are welcome and permitted to supply their own furbearers for the timed and no-time limit pelt handling contests.
7. Judging of ALL pelts will be conducted IN THE OPEN for anyone interested in watching the judging.
8. Awards will be presented for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place. Results will be made available to the public and contestants shortly after the judging is completed.
9. The Ministry of Natural Resources plaque, for best handled bundle, will consist of 3 species of fur, EXCEPT muskrat, red squirrel, ermine skunk or opossum. Due to the prestige of the MNR plaque, combining best handled fur from other pelt handling competitions will not be permitted.

## **Rules for Beaver Handling Contest**

1. Any person may enter - no teams.
2. Beaver will be supplied by the FHA.
3. Contestant will supply own knives, scrapers, etc.
4. Beaver will be put on marked boards, supplied using mails.
5. Three judges will be appointed. Their decision will be final.
6. The winner will be the best handled pelt. In the beaver no time limit contest, five hours are allowed each contestant.
7. In the case of tie, skin-offs will be run.
8. The top three pelts on the first event will be the winners. There will be no finals except in the case of a tie, or ties.

## **Judging Timed Beaver Skinning Contest**

Speed: Fastest 10 points, next 9 points, next 8 points, next 7 points, etc.

Quality: All grease removed, lips and nose cut off, no cuts. In other words a near-perfect job of skinning scraping - 10 points. Deduct 2 points for cuts. (Each cut). Deduct 1 point for each separate exposure of hair roots. NOTE: Check carefully any scars that have opened and determine if fault of contestant. If in doubt do not deduct points. Check if pelt is raised on nails. Deduct 2 points if not.

Appearance: Shape, closeness of nails, type of leg closure. Deduct 1 point for each minor appearance fault, 2 for major.

## **Best Handled Pelt Awards (To be prepared at home)**

1. Elmer Trick Award Raccoon

2. Magnus Nyman Award Lynx
3. Andy Tyson Award Wolf
4. Woodstream Award Beaver
5. Phillipe Giroux Award Wild Mink
6. MNR Trophy - Best Handled Bundle of 3
7. FHA Award Muskrat
8. Alex Shieff Award Marten
9. FHA Award Fox
10. FHA Award Fisher
11. FHA Award Coyote
12. FHA Award Otter

**Canadian Open Raccoon No Time Limit Contest**

Contestant must supply own raccoon (holding permit required), and his own equipment and stretchers. He must skin, flesh and board his raccoon. Judging will be based on:

- Shape and stretch 10 points
- Fleshing – Grease removed 10 points
- Cleanliness of leather 10 points
- Shape of window 10 points
- Front legs 5 points
- Fleshing of head 5 points
- Shape of Tail 5 points
- Nose / lips 5 points
- Total 60 points

**Canadian Open Raccoon Timed Contest**

LLOYD COOK AWARD

Judged on:

- Time - 20 points
- Shape - 10 points
- Inspection Window - 10 points
- Cleanliness leather and hair - 20 points

**No Time Limit Awards**

These Pelts Are To Be Prepared In The Fur Harvesters Auction Warehouse

1. Woodstream Award Otter
2. Con Ducharme Award Beaver
3. Don Ward Award(children) Muskrat
4. FHA Award Raccoon

Timed Awards

Pelts Are To Be Prepared In The Fur Harvester Auction Warehouse

1. Lloyd Cook Award Raccoon
2. MNR Award (women) Beaver
3. FHA Award (men) Beaver

**Top Youth Fur Handler**

Don McMahon Memorial Award

**Kids Best Bundle**

Ontario Conservation Officers Association Award

Age: up to 15

Bundle consists of three of the following furbearers: Muskrat, Mink, Marten, Weasel, Red squirrel.

**Youth Muskrat Skinning Contest**

Youths entering must be 12 to 16 years of age with parents' permission, and the son or daughter of a trapper. Contestant supplies own knives, scrapers, etc. Stretchers and muskrat will be supplied by FHA. Judging on speed, quality and appearance.

**Best Bundle - MNR Plaque**

This award is given to the trapper submitting the highest quality bundle of pelts, consisting of 3 species.

**A Guiding Hand**

Doug Thomas Memorial Award

Teams will consist of two people:

1 licensed trapper and one person 16 or under.

Fur to be prepared: 1 beaver and 1 raccoon.

Entrants must jointly work together. All skinning must be done in the warehouse (no time limite). Skinning must be done by 1:00 pm on Saturday. Animals to skin will be supplied.

**Trap Setting Contest**

One each of No. 330, No. 280, No. 220, No. 120, Footsnare and No. 3 Coil Spring padded jaw, must be set and remain set. Safety device supplied must be installed on conibears.

Fox: FUR OUT

Proper Shape 10

Tail split & pinned 10

Cleanliness of fur 10

Cleanliness of leather 10

Ear cartilage removed 10

Ears pinned flat to head 10

Front legs in 10

Lower lip removed 10

Coyote: FUR OUT

Proper Shape 10

Tail split & pinned 10

Cleanliness of fur 10

Cleanliness of leather 10

Ear cartilage removed 10

Ears pinned flat to head 10

Front legs in 10

Lower lip removed 10

Saddle removed 10

Lynx: FUR OUT

Ear cartilage removed 10

Ears pinned flat to head 10

Front legs in 10

Paws skinned out 10

No claws 10

Shape 10

Cleanliness of fur 10

Cleanliness of leather 10

Lower lip removed 10

Fisher: FUR OUT

Shape 10

Saddle removed 10

Front legs in 10

Cleanliness of leather 10

Cleanliness of fur 10

Tail Split & pinned 10

Lower lip removed 10

Marten: FUR OUT

Front legs in 10

Shape body 10

Cleanliness of fur 10  
Tail Split & pinned 10  
Ears pinned forward 10  
Lower lip removed 10

Otter: FUR IN

Shape 10  
Cleanliness of fur 10  
Cleanliness of leather 10  
Inspection window 20  
Shape of tail 10  
Lower lip removed 10

Muskrat: FUR IN

Shape 10  
Grease removed 10  
Cleanliness of fur 10  
General appearance 10

Mink: FUR IN

Inspection window 20  
Shape 10  
Cleanliness of fur 10  
Cleanliness of leather 10  
Grease removed - saddle on 10  
Lower lip removed 10

Raccoon: FUR IN

Inspection window 15  
Shape 15  
Cleanliness of fur & leather 20  
Lower lip removed 10  
Tail split & pinned 10

Beaver: OPEN SKINNED

Shape 20  
Cleanliness of fur 10  
Nose & whiskers removed 10  
Cleanliness of leather 10  
Legs sewn 10  
General appearance 10  
Ears removed 10

Timber Wolf: FUR OUT

Handling - Shape 20  
Claws on 10  
Paws skinned out 10  
Front legs out 10  
Grease removed 20  
Ear cartilage separated 10  
Tail bone removed 10  
Lip split 10  
Nose skinned - cartilage out 10  
Anus left on pelt 10  
All pads left on pelt 10