

Regulation—

Wolf Bone Attached

There's more than one way to skin a wolf, but however Alaskan trappers and hunters do it this year, the long bones of the left front leg must remain attached to the hide until it is sealed by a Department of Fish and Game representative.

According to Bud Burris, management coordinator of the Game Division's Fairbanks office, the new regulation is designed to help keep better track of wolf populations throughout the state.

"By seeing the leg bone we can tell if the animal is a yearling or younger, or an adult," he said. "Knowing the ages of the animals being taken, we begin to build up a picture of the 'age structure' of the population, and that tells us whether the population is expanding, declining or remaining stable."

Burris explained the process of leaving the two bones attached: "All you have to do is detach the bones at the elbow when the skin of the leg is peeled back, and remove the muscle down to the

toes. The leg bones will remain attached to the bones of the paw."

All wolf and wolverine taken by trappers and fur animal hunters must be sealed within 60 days of taking by a Fish and Game wolf and wolverine sealer, or by a Fish and Game office. Sealers can be found in most towns and villages in the Interior, Burris said.