

Using the Steel Jawbone Extractor

No. 35814 Steel Jawbone Extractor No. 81102 Jawbone Removal Shears



Accurately determining the age of a whitetail deer is important for proper deer herd management. Biologists use a technique for estimating the age by mandibular tooth replacement and wear which usually requires removal of the jawbone. Use of the Steel Jawbone Éxtractor provides a fast, easy way to remove the jawbone without causing damage to the cape.



1. Use the jawbone extractor to pry open the deer's mouth. insert the smaller, rounded end of the extractor between the jawbone and the cheek and push to break loose membrane and muscle from the jawbone.



2. Hold the deer's mouth wide open using the extractor. Insert jawbone removal loppers with the blade on the tongue side. Tilt the handles of the shears toward the lower jawbone, and then cut the jawbone being careful not to cut the last molar cusp.



- 3. Insert the smaller end of the jawbone extractor over the jawbone where the cut was made. With the deer head held down firmly, give a quick tug on the extractor. It should slide under the jawbone and break loose all remaining muscles, freeing the jawbone. That side of the jawbone will separate from the opposite side near or in the middle of the front teeth or may be cut using shears. Because only the premolars and molars are used, the front teeth usually have no value for this type of aging.
- 4. Clean the jawbone and remove all tissue. Attach a tag for recording the data and air dry.

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