

The Feng Shui of Animal Trophies

Michele Lewis



Dear Michele,
I have a friend who raises sheep and who gave me a beautiful sheepskin

that I love. My wife says it's bad Feng Shui to have dead animal parts (i.e., skins, antlers, taxidermy) in the house, and wants me to get rid of it. Please tell me I can keep the sheepskin!

Signed,
Skirmishing Over the Skin

Dear Skirmishing,

Don't let your differing opinions create disharmony in your house—that will attract more negative energy than any animal part would!

The topic of animal skins, bones, and other parts is a very interesting subject from a Feng Shui perspective. Most Feng Shui books will advise that those things that are dead or were obtained from something that is dead will attract negative, death chi. This is very good general advice but does not take into consideration what I feel is a crucial factor as to what type of energy objects attract and hold. That crucial factor is intention.

In many cultures, when an animal is killed it is done with the utmost respect for the spirit of the animal and with gratitude for all that the animal can provide for the well-being of others. When this is done, the animal is

blessed and the nature of its spirit and the good qualities of the animal are retained to a degree in its parts. The wearing of skins, feathers, and other parts was reserved only for those of great attainment and wisdom as they were considered worthy to represent the spirit of the animal.

A friend of mine has a beautiful buffalo skin that emanates the strength and majesty of the animal it once clothed and has very good energy around it. When you touch it you can feel the spirit of the buffalo and the oneness of all life. Contrast this with some animal trophies hanging on walls as tributes to conquest and human pride. These specimens often do not hold good energy and hang as reminders of the animal's death, creating negative chi around them.

In the case of antlers, deer will naturally shed them and if you find shed antlers, it is a gift to you. In this case, the animal did not have to be killed to give of itself and that free giving of self is good Feng Shui. Deer are considered very auspicious in Chinese philosophy—they are gentle animals, but always alert. Antlers are the physical appear-



ance of good yang energy in the animal, and antlers are used ground up in many Traditional Chinese Medicine preparations.

In the case of your sheepskin, you must evaluate for yourself the energy it is holding and how it makes you (and your wife)

feel. Do you feel comfort and a sense of well-being when you touch it? Does the skin have a good feeling to it? Does it feel free of any energy of suffering on the part of the animal? If you can answer

“yes” to these questions, by all means enjoy your sheepskin! ■

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