

Dissection Terminology and Techniques

Terms

Most terms are for cat/pig dissection of musculature

1. dissection- to separate (not to cut)
2. transect- cut at right angles at the center of the belly of the muscles
3. reflect- pull cut ends back to view deep muscles
4. probe/tease- to isolate muscles from connective tissue and other muscles, to define muscle and make more distinct
5. Line of demarcation- line of separation between different muscles
6. striations- direction that the muscle fibers run

Dissection Techniques

1. Cutting
 - a. ONLY one person dissects at a time
 - b. Always cut parallel to across your body. NEVER cut towards yourself or towards others.
 - c. Pry specimen and use long cutting strokes not too deep. (KIDNEY & HEART ONLY)
 - d. Use blade in a **light** sweeping manner, do not jab blade too deep (CAT or PIG)
 - e. Before using scissors, first isolate what needs to be cut and then cut
2. Removing connective tissue/ Isolation
 - a. Use forceps to remove tissue by picking at it
 - b. Use forceps to lift connective tissue to be cut
 - c. Use needle or seeker probe to isolate by scratching/etching away connective tissue
 - d. To separate muscles that are firmly attached to one another may require you to use your fingers (aggressively) in a sweeping motion to separate muscles
 - e. If you feel too much resistance, stop and take a look to see what is preventing separation
3. Maintaining Specimens
 - a. During dissection, spray specimen with preservative to prevent cat/pig from drying out
 - b. Place specimen in bag given to you by instructor
 - c. Label bag with your 2-digit table number
 - d. Cat/Pig- After dissection, place an old white t-shirt around cat/pig, place cat/pig in bag (get as much air out), twist the top and fold over and seal with rubber band (do not let the preservative leak out of bag)
 - e. Cat/Pig- Label your cat bag with your 2-digit table number.