

# Dissection Terminology and Techniques

## Terms

Most terms are for cat 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)
  - 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 from drying out
  - b. Place specimen in bag given to you by instructor
  - c. Label bag with your 2-digit table number
  - d. Cat- After dissection, place an old white t-shirt around cat, place cat 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- Label your cat bag with your 2-digit table number.