

DEEP MUSCLES - INTRODUCTION

The dissection of the deeper muscles should be done on one side only, leaving the superficial muscles on the second side intact. Compare the superficial muscles on one side with deeper muscles on the other side. This procedure permits later utilization of superficial muscles for review and study. Also, if for some reason the deeper muscles on one side are improperly dissected or destroyed, those of the second side are then still available. Similarly, dissect the deeper muscles of only one forelimb and one hind limb, leaving the superficial muscles intact upon the second limb.

In order to expose the deeper muscles it is best to *transect* each of the superficial muscles. This is done by cutting them at right angles to the direction of the fibers at the central belly area. They are then folded back, or *reflected*, to their origins and insertions. They can thus easily be "reconstructed" at any time in order to examine the relationship of the deeper muscles to those of the superficial layers.

You will find that the deeper muscles are quite different from those above them. The variations in shapes, lengths, directions of the fibers, as well as their actions are revealed only after they have been exposed. It is impossible to guess about them by viewing the superficial muscles alone. For example, could we predict the unusual shape of the serratus ventralis or dorsalis muscles by merely viewing the superficial thoracic musculature? Such examples abound when considering the entire pig musculature.

The description of the deeper muscles will repeat the pattern followed for the superficial muscles; first the anterior ventral area, then the posterior, finally the deeper muscles of the dorsal region. A Self-Quiz for students is found at the end of the entire unit on muscles.