

ANATOMICAL TERMINOLOGY

Some basic biological terminology should be studied at this time. Familiarize yourself with the following words and learn to use them in referring to the location of the body parts of your specimen.

Directions or Positions

Anterior (Cranial)	— toward the head
Posterior (Caudal)	— toward the tail
Dorsal (Superior)	— toward the backbone
Ventral (Inferior)	— toward the belly
Lateral	— toward the side
Medial	— toward the midline
Proximal	— lying near the point of reference
Distal	— lying further from the point of reference

Note: The terms in parentheses are synonymous only when referring to a quadruped such as a pig. In man these terms have different meanings (see diagrams at the end of this section).

Planes or Sections Through the Body

Transverse (Cross Section)	— perpendicular to the long axis of the body
Sagittal	— a longitudinal section separating the body into right and left sides
Frontal (Coronal)	— a longitudinal section dividing the specimen into dorsal and ventral parts