

EXTERNAL FEATURES

Preliminary Procedures

When you obtain your specimen remove it carefully from the plastic bag container and place into a dissection pan. Do not discard the preservative fluid in the bag. The animal will be returned to the bag at the end of each lab session and the fluid will keep the specimen in good moist condition.

Obtain an identification tag and a rubber band for your specimen bag. At the close of each session, after the pig has been returned to the bag, twist the top of the bag and seal tightly with the rubber band. Then, attach the tag. Write your name, your partner's name, the section number, and the instructor's name, on the label.

Examination

Examine the specimen you have received. Lay the pig on its side as in the first photo.

The body is divided into four readily identifiable areas:

- head (cranial)
- neck (cervical)
- trunk (thoracic and abdominal)
- tail (caudal)

Appendages (Limbs)

The pig is a *quadruped*, in contrast to man who is a *biped*. This refers to four- and two-legged locomotion, respectively. The pig walks on the toes; this is called *digitigrade* locomotion. Man walks on the sole of the foot; this is called *plantigrade* locomotion.

In the photo note the positions of the elbow and wrist, ankle and knee. Count the digits (toes) on each foot. Each foot has four toes. The middle two are flattened and have hooves.

Head

Locate the following parts of the head:

Snout — The snout of the pig has a blunt tip, ending with a disc-like, pliable but firm structure composed of *cartilage*. The tip of the nose is also strengthened by bone. This permits the pig to use the snout to push, lift weights and dig.

External Nares — These are nostrils opening in the cartilaginous disc of the snout. They open into the nasal cavity. Here the inhaled air is warmed, filtered and humidified.

Pinnae — These are the external ears. They are also composed of cartilage, just as the human ear. The *external auditory meatus* is the opening for the *external auditory canal* which leads to the *tympanic membrane* (eardrum), and to the *middle ear*.

Eyes — Spread the upper and lower eyelids. In the inner corner of the eye locate a third lid-like structure, the *nictitating membrane*. Does the pig have eyelashes?