

Fetal Pig Dissection and Autopsy Procedures

Day 1: External structures, oral cavity, throat dissection and muscles.

- Look for physical injuries, materials under the fingernails, inside the mouth, etc.
- Dissect oral cavity, throat and body as instructed.
- Record all findings on Autopsy Report and Structures To Know For The Fetal Pig Practicum Worksheet for Day 1.

Day 2: Open thoracic and abdominal cavities but leave all organs in place.

- Dissect thoracic and abdominal cavities as instructed.
- Identify all organs and complete Structures To Know For The Fetal Pig Practicum Worksheet for Day 2.
- Instructor will "kill" the subject tonight and give internal symptoms.

Day 3: Thoracic Cavity Close Examination

A. Heart

- Take the heart out removing some of the connecting arteries and veins connected to it.
- Identify all four chambers by name, aorta, and coronary arteries.
- Cut the heart in half so that all four chambers will be cut in half.
- Identify all four chambers by name, aorta, and coronary arteries and septum.
- Slice heart into many slices and look for any discoloration and yellowing of muscle indicating that it died of a heart attack before the pig actually died.
- Record all findings on Autopsy Report and Structures To Know For The Fetal Pig Practicum Worksheet for Day 3.

B. Respiratory system

- Remove tissue to expose the trachea, larynx, and branching of bronchi.
- Cut the trachea above the larynx and remove the respiratory system.
- Use a pipette to pump air into lungs through the trachea and observe.
- Cut open the larynx to find the vocal cords.
- Slice the lung lobes into thin sections. Observe cross sections of the trachea, bronchi, and bronchioles.
- Excess blood indicates the individual died of a lung embolism.
- Blackened lobes of the lung indicate the individual was a smoker and may have died of lung cancer.
- Record all findings on Autopsy Report and Structures To Know For The Fetal Pig Practicum Worksheet for Day 3.

Day 4: Abdominal Cavity Close Examination

C. Liver

- Remove all lobes of the liver.
- Look to see that the gall bladder is intact. Green bile all over the cavity and gallstones in the abdominal cavity indicate that individual died of a ruptured gall bladder.
- Slice the liver into sections and look for yellowing. Yellowing indicates cirrhosis of the liver, often a fatal condition. Cirrhosis is scarring of the liver tissue caused by alcohol abuse or hepatitis C.
- Record all findings on Autopsy Report.

D. Digestive Tract

- Remove tissue to expose the entire digestive tract from the esophagus to the rectum.
- Remove the entire digestive tract.
- Cut the mesenteries (clear membrane holding the intestines together) and stretch out the digestive tract.
- Measure the length of the pig from mouth to anus. Measure one lab partner from mouth to anus. Calculate the length of each digestive organ in your lab partner's body using math and the measurements of the pig. Record your answers on the Structures To Know For The Fetal Pig Worksheet.

E. Excretory System

- Expose the entire excretory system: kidneys, ureters, bladder, urethra
- Remove a kidney and slice it in half to see how urine collects into the ureter.