DISSECTION FOR ORGAN HARVESTING

1. Pin 4 limbs to dissection table.

2. Spray EtOH.

3. With blunt forceps, pinch skin above genitals, cut horizontally.

4. Cut longitudinally from caudal to rostral up to lower jaw.

5. Pull skin apart. Separate salivary gland (huge!) from the neck area.

6. Pinch peritoneum at lower abdomen, cut longitudinally up to sternum. Then laterally forming a “T”.

7. To collect the spleen, grab stomach and pull it to your left. Grab spleen gently and separate from pancreas and all the other tissues.

8. Collect left kidney. Grab gently, start detaching from fat from caudal, then rostral, finally center, where the renal artery is.

9. To collect the other kidney, cut out the whole gut.

10. Optional: collect the gonads.

- Males: Expose seminal vesicles, and then pull from fat tissue on either side to expose the testes. Cut the connections of the rostral region, then grab under the bladder, pull up and cut out. Once separated, isolate the testes by grabbing them and trimming surrounding fat and connections.

- Females: Expose uterine horns, flip over the ovaries, and separate from the body. Grab under the bladder. Pull up and cut out. Once separated, trim fat surrounding the ovary with a scalpel, grab the ovary and cut the tubular connection with the horn.

11. Drag down the liver and cut the connections with the diaphragm, until it is completely free.

12. Cut open the diaphragm completely, and then cut the ribs along each side of the chest cavity. Go past the thymus.

13. Grab the thymus (the younger the bigger), pull it up and cut it out. Do not mistake it with fat tissue!

14. Grab the heart, pull it up and cut it out.

Trim as much fat as possible from each organ before weighing them on tared plastic weight boxes. Then fix in formalin or freeze for RNA/protein extraction.