Appendix A: Glossary of Anatomical Terms

Not all the terms in this list appear in the dissector. However, they may be encountered in supplementary reading.

- **abduction**: drawing away from midline
- **adduction**: drawing toward the midline
- **adherent**: sticking or clinging (< adhere)
- **alveolus**: pouch in lung air sac
- **anterior**: situated before or in front of (also ventral)
- **aorta**: the large artery carrying oxygenated blood away from the heart
- **aponeurosis**: a dense shiny fascia with all the fibers running in the same direction, forming a tendon
- **apposition**: a fitting together
- **artery**: vessel carrying blood away from the heart
- **articulation**: connection between bones
- **autonomic nervous system**: innervation of smooth muscle, heart muscle and glands
- **belly**: central part of a muscle
- **body (of bone)**: broadest or longest mass of bone
- **brachium**: arm or branch
- **brainstem**: base of the brain joining the spinal cord, includes the medulla oblongata, pons, and the midbrain
- **bronchus**: one of two branches of the trachea entering the lungs
- **buccal**: belonging to the cheek
- **cartilage**: substance from which some bone ossifies; gristle
- **caudal below;** farther from the head (also inferior)
- **central nervous system**: the brain and spinal cord (abbreviated CNS)
- **cervical (vertebrae)**: pertaining to the neck
- **clavicle**: the collarbone; a long bone articulating the sternum medially and the scapula laterally
- **cornu**: a small, horn-shaped projection of a bone (pl. cornua, adj. corniculate)
- **coronal**: vertical; at right angles to sagittal (also frontal)
- **cortex**: the outer portion of an organ, particularly the brain; gray matter
- **costal**: pertaining to the ribs
- **cranial**: upper; nearer to the head (also superior, rostral)
- **cranium**: the skull; the portion of the skull containing the brain
- **deep**: farther from the surface
- **depressor**: that which lowers
- **dilator**: that which regulates the opening of an aperture; a muscle that expands or enlarges an opening
- **distal**: farther from a point of attachment
- **dorsal**: toward the rear, back (also posterior); used esp. for the brain
- **eminence**: a projection or prominence (of bone)
- **esophagus**: muscular tube through which food is carried from the pharynx to
the stomach
extension
fascia
flexion
foramen
foramina
fossa
frontal
ganglion
genioi (process)
gland
gyrus
head (of bone)
in situ
inferior
innervate
innervation
insertion
interdigitate
jugular notch
jugular
lamina
lateral
levator
ligament
lingual
lumbar (vertebrae)
malar
mandible
manubrium
margin
maxilla
meatus
medial
(osseus) membrane
midline
mucosa
neck (of bone)
nerve group of fibers outside the CNS
nucleus group of nerve cell bodies inside the CNS
oblique slanting
occiput the back part of the head or skull
origin fixed part of a muscle
palpate to examine by touch
parietal on the side or top; the parietal pleura is the pleural membrane

pericardium the membrane (actually an extension of the visceral pleura) covering and containing the heart (adj. pericardial)
pleura the membrane(s) covering the lungs and inside of the thorax (cf. parietal, visceral; pl. pleurae)
plexus a collection of nerve fibers
pons structure of the brainstem connecting the medulla oblongata, midbrain and cerebrum
process (of bone) projection
proximal nearer to a point of attachment
pterygoid wing-shaped; pertaining to the pterygoid bone, inferior to the sphenoid bone of the skull
pulmonary trunk the region of the bronchus as it enters the lung
ramus plate-like branch of bone; branch of a vessel or nerve
raphe union of two parts (in a line)
reflect pull or bend back
rostral upper; nearer to the head (also cranial, superior)
sagittal vertical plane or section dividing body into right and left
scapula the shoulder blade
septum a membrane or other structure separating two related structures (pl. septa)

serous watery
sphincter a circular band of muscle fibers that constrict an opening
sternum the breastbone
subcutaneous deep to the skin
sulcus a "valley" on the surface of the brain (pl. sulci)
superficial nearer to the surface
superior upper; nearer to the head (also rostral, cranial)
tendon fibrous tissue securing a muscle to its attachment (adj. tendinous)
tensor that which draws tight
thoracic cavity the inside of the rib cage; region of the heart and lungs
trachea tube connecting the pharynx with the lungs
transverse at right angles to long axis (also horizontal)
tubercle small bump (can be felt with finger)
umbilicus the navel
vascular pertaining to the circulatory system, particularly arteries and veins
vein vessel returning blood to the heart
viscera  soft organs of the body
visceral  pertaining to the viscera; the visceral pleura is the layer of the pleura that faces the lungs (cf. parietal)

Notes on terminology

1. Muscles are often identified by where they originate and where they terminate. For example, the sternohyoid muscle originates at the sternum and terminates at the hyoid bone.

2. The nerve roots that exit from the spinal cord are often abbreviated by the section of the spinal cord from which they emerge and their number (i.e. how far down the cord they are at that particular level). For example, C1 is the first (most superior) nerve root which exits the cord at the cervical level (the most superior).