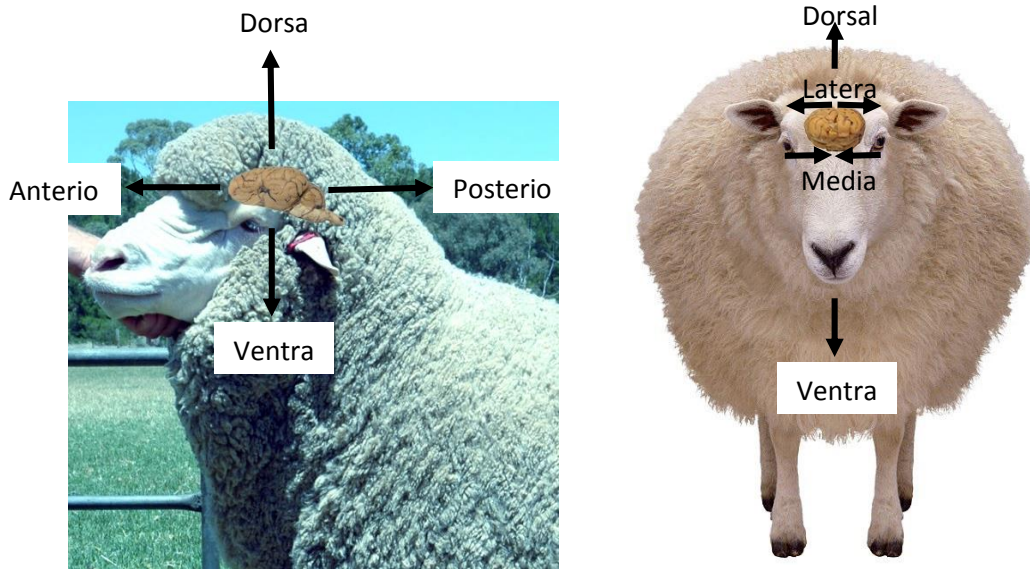


## Pre-Lab Preparation

### I. Preparation: Orientation and Visual Inspection

- a. Before the lab, make yourself familiar with:
  - i. the directional terms we use to orient ourselves in anatomy
  - ii. where the brain was situated with respect to the rest of the body



**Figure 1.** Two views of sheep brains in relation to the living sheep. On the left is a sagittal view, and on the right a coronal view of the sheep brain.

b. The brains you will dissect in lab will look something like the brains in the images here. They have been removed from the skull and from the rest of the nervous system (use material from Lecture 2 and your textbook to review what these are).

c. There are six cardinal directions in anatomy, and three planes of section (the orientation from which you view or slice the brain). These are listed below. Some directions and planes have multiple names, but in this guide we will try to stick to the most commonly used term.

#### Anatomical Directions

Dorsal (aka. Superior)  
Ventral (aka. Inferior)  
Anterior (aka. Rostral)  
Posterior (aka. Caudal)  
Lateral

#### Medial

#### Anatomical Views/Planes of Section

Sagittal  
Coronal (aka. Frontal)  
Horizontal (aka. Transverse)

If you are unfamiliar with these terms and what they refer to, go ahead and look them up online or in your textbook (Bear et al. Ch7, p221 is a good place to start), to help you complete the exercises on this page.

**Preparation Exercises:**

*Exercise 1.* For each of the images below, label

- a) The anatomical view (plane of section) that is displayed.
- b) The anatomical directions that are visible (i.e. the ones that do not come into or go out of the page).



*Pre-Question 1:* Why do you think we have a set of directions and directional terms specifically for use in anatomy? What is useful about them?

*Pre-Question 2:* Based on these images, list the parts of the nervous system that will not be present in your dissection dish.