

What does a Real Heart Look Like?

Dissecting a Porcine (Pig) Heart (Page 3 of 3)



Sections through the porcine heart (33k (left) & 35k (right) JPEG)

These sections are cut transversely (parallel to your belt) through the heart and all views are taken looking up from the bottom. At left is a section through a location just above the apex of the heart which is located at the bottom. The small hole on the left side in the middle is the



cavity of the left ventricle. The crescent-shaped void on the right is the right ventricle. The myocardium (heart muscle) is much thicker on the left side because it must pump blood to the entire body while the right side only pumps blood to the lungs. The image to the right is a section through the heart in the middle of the ventricles, about half way between the apex and the mitral valve. Again, the myocardium of the left ventricle is much thicker than of the right.



Sections through the heart at the mitral valve (34k (left) & 36k (right) JPEG)

These two images are taken of sections through the mitral valve. On the left side of each image the leaflets of the valve are visible, as are the chordae tendinae. The chordae act as guy wires, keeping the leaflets in the proper position so that they will close when the ventricles start to contract during systole. The leaflets and chordae are extremely



tough, which is a good thing because they have to withstand high blood pressures over billions of loading cycles.

Thanks for visiting the virtual porcine heart dissection. I hope that you enjoyed yourself and learned something!

[Heart Valve Lab Home Page](#)

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