**CHEETAH NECROPSY PROTOCOL**

All animals should be laid on their right side. The carcass should be opened on the underside with a cut running the length of the body. The cut should start at the chin and go all the way to the rectum. The cut should be along the midline of the body, not to one side. Once the skin and muscles of the body wall are opened up, you will be looking down on the rib cage and the intestines. If you gently lift the intestines and associated tissues and move them aside (without cutting anything), you will see the stomach and the liver, which lie against the base of the rib cage. You will also need to open the rib cage to expose the heart and lungs. Take the tissue samples as illustrated by the heavy black lines.

**Essential:**

1. **Stomach**—Full thickness sections from the fundus/body, the pylorus, and the region near the entrance of the esophagus.

2. **Liver**—Sections from three different lobes. Include outer sheath.

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![Diagram of stomach and liver sections](image-url)
3. **Reproductive Tract—Female:** As you look down on the animal, the body of the uterus lies on top of the rectum. Follow it up along the horns of the uterus to the ovaries. Take the entire uterus (body and horn) and ovaries. Make a longitudinal cut through the body.

**Male:** Entire testis with associated structures and prostate gland.

4. **Kidney—** The kidneys are found deep, against the animal's back. Take a full thickness section across both kidneys as illustrated.
5. **Heart**—Two full thickness sections, one through the right atrium and ventricle and one through left atrium and ventricle.

6. **Muscle**—Section through thigh muscles.

7. **Skin**—Full thickness section through skin on abdomen.

Nonessential:

1. **Intestines**—Follow the intestines from the stomach all the way to the rectum. Open along long axis and take several 3 cm long sections along the length of the intestines as illustrated.

2. **Lungs**—Sections from several lobes.
3. **Diaphragm**—The diaphragm is the large sheet of muscle that lies under the ribs and separates the chest from the belly. Take a full thickness section.

4. **Pancreas**—The pancreas lies alongside the beginning part of the intestines. It is a pale organ, generally found on the right side of the animal's body. Take two sections from different areas.

5. **Urinary bladder**—Full thickness section through the bladder.
6. **Tongue**—Full thickness section near the tip.

7. **Spleen**—The spleen is a dark red organ, usually found on the animal's left side near the stomach. Take a section that includes the outer sheath.