

TEXAS

PARKS &

WILDLIFE

How to Extract Medial Retropharyngeal Lymph Nodes (MRLN)

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)

Sampling

The best approach to extract MLRNs is from the bottom of the head / neck area. To begin extraction face the top of the head down as shown in the illustration.



Make an incision between the back of the two lower jawbones and about 2-3 inches in front of the larynx (voice box). The incision should extend approximately 5-7 inches down the neck just cutting through the skin down to the trachea.

Back of Lower Jawbone

Larynx



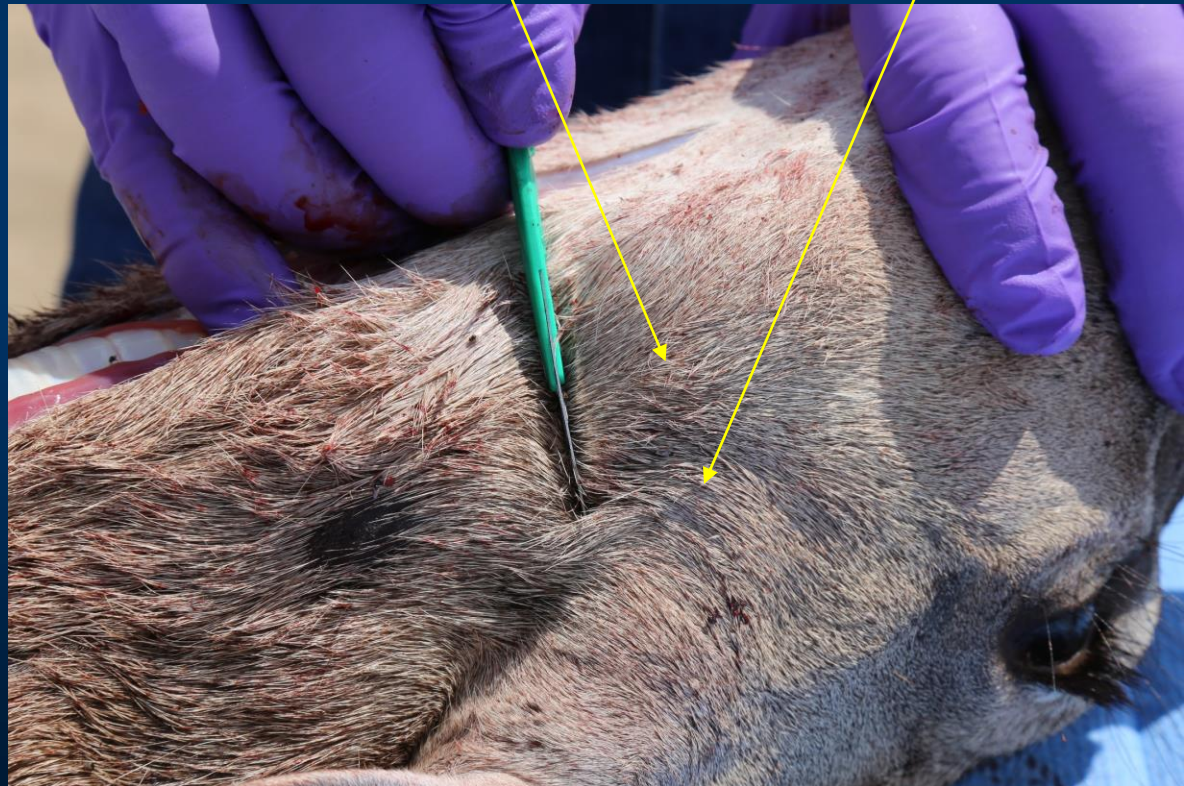
Make another incision just in front of the larynx (voice box) starting on the back edge of the lower jawbone below the base of the ear to the initial cut on both sides.

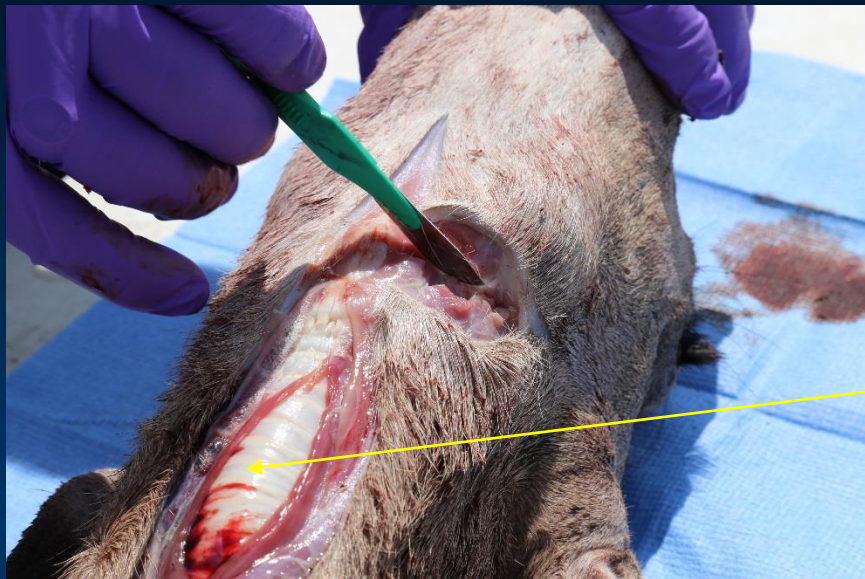
Larynx



Back of Lower Jawbone

Base of Ear





After making the necessary cuts, skin the hide away from the neck to expose the trachea (windpipe)

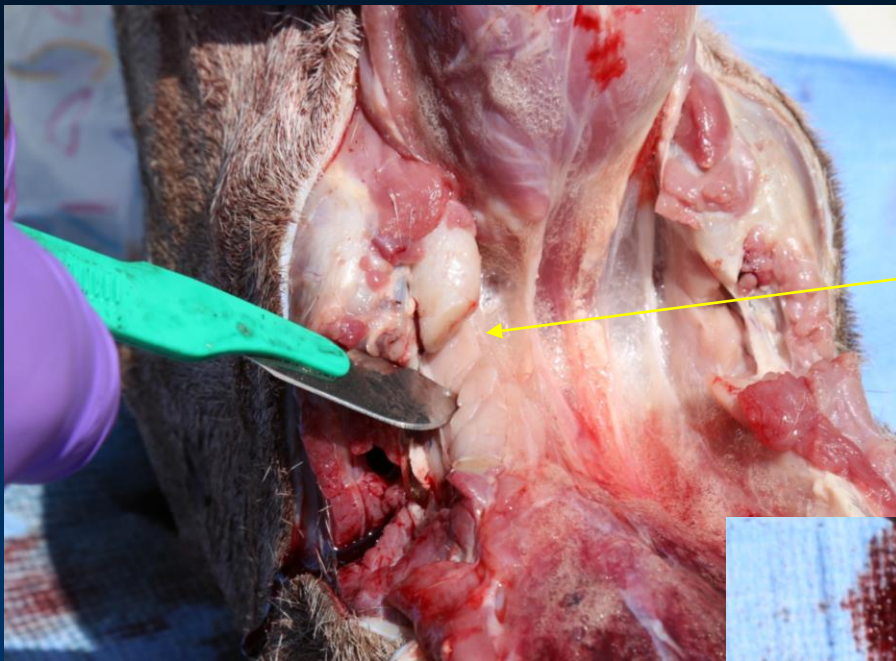
Trachea



Cut through the trachea and tissue towards the end of the incision on the lower neck.

Pull the trachea towards the nose, skinning and cutting tissue as needed. Avoid cutting too deeply.

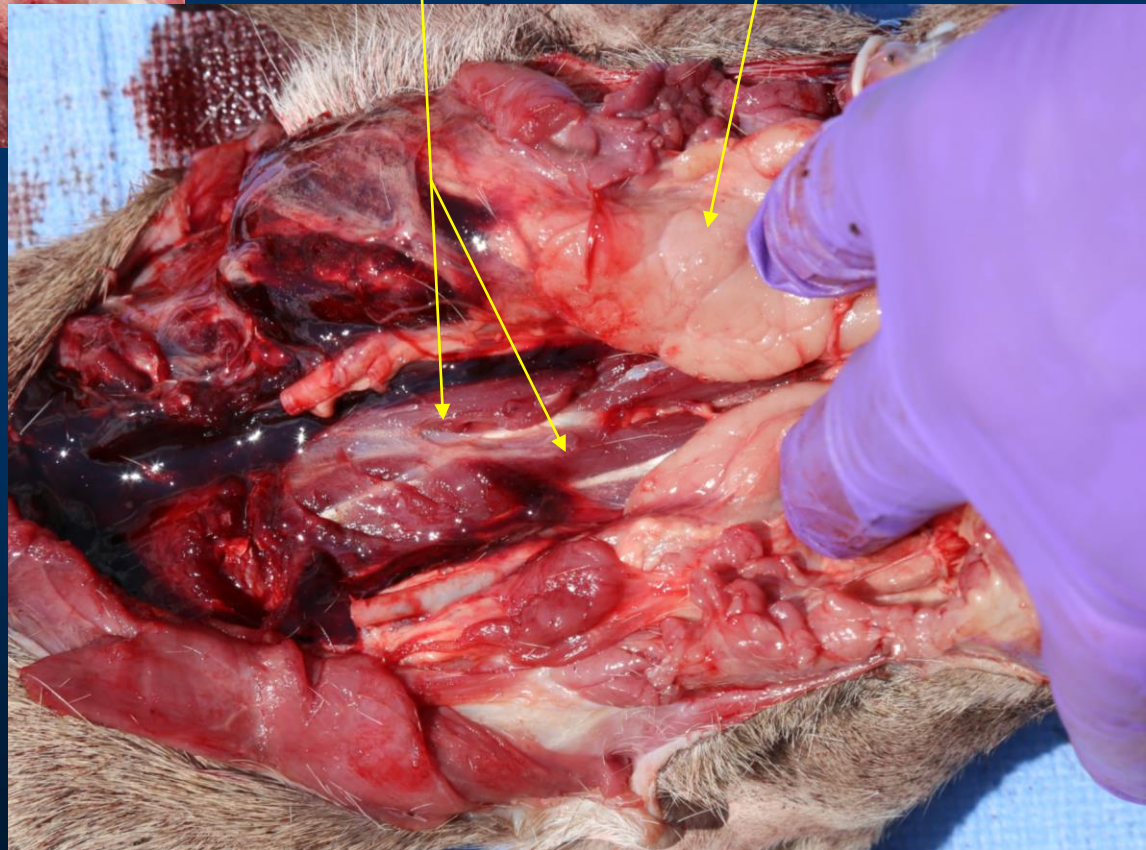


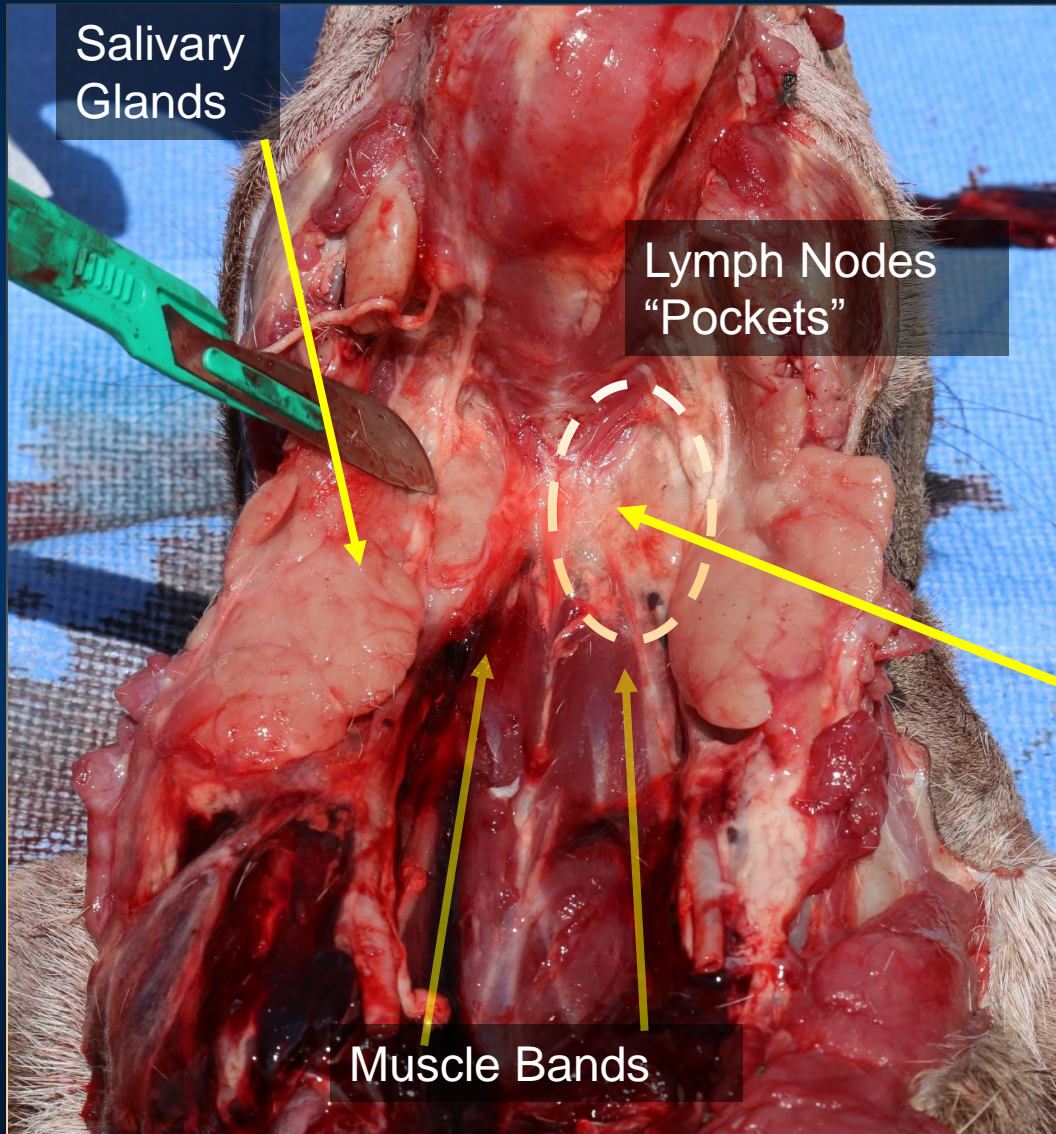


Salivary Glands

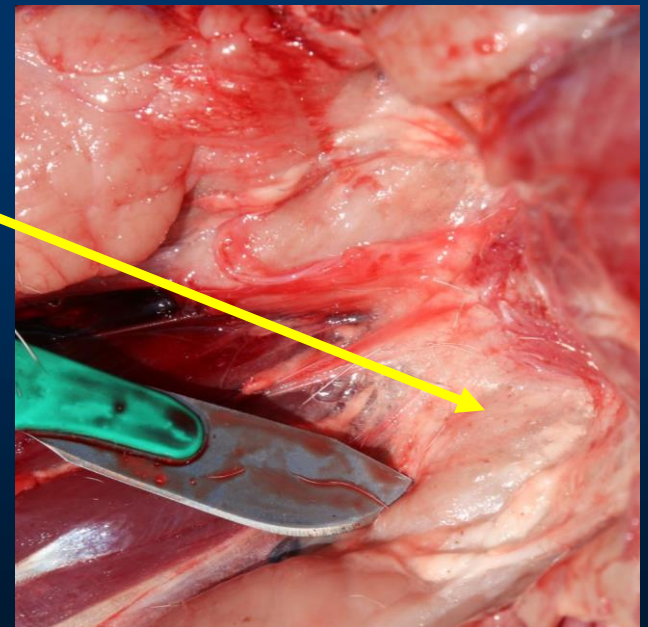
Muscle Bands

Note the salivary glands which have a flat granular appearance and are located just inside the lower jawbone. Also notice the two muscle band along the edge of the spine.

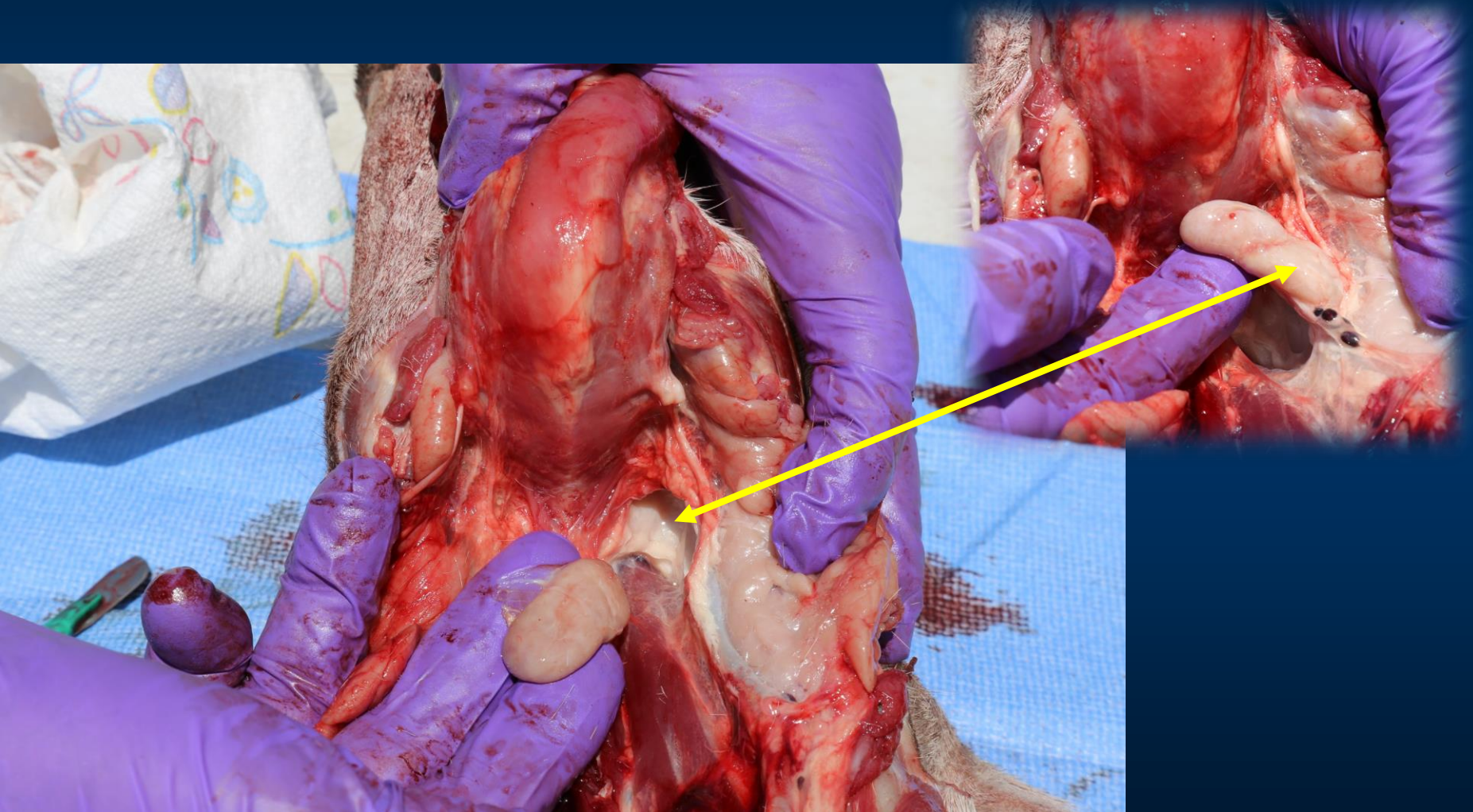


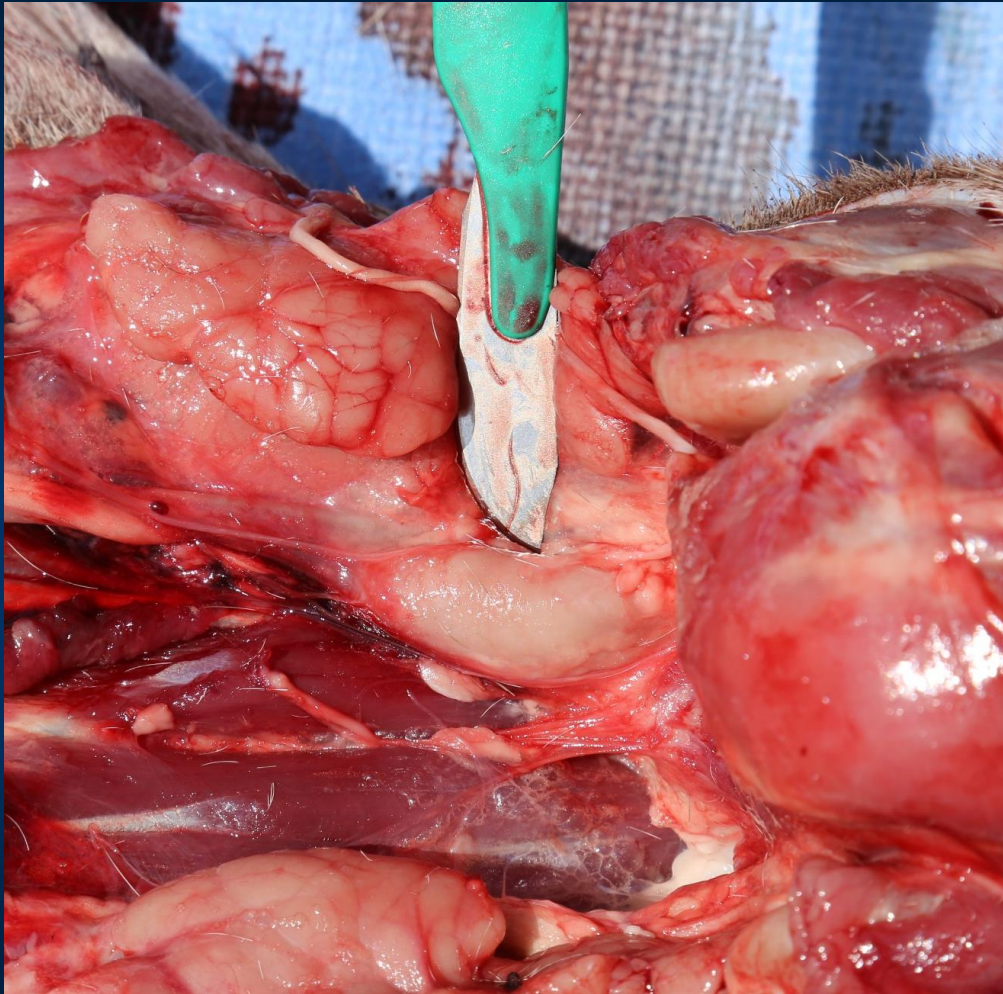


The MLRNs are located on either side of the spine below the pharynx and just inside the lower jawbone. They may be covered by the salivary glands. Notice the two small oval "pockets" at the end of the muscle bands. The lymph nodes are just below this thin membrane of tissue.



The MRLN may be removed with a finger by prying or plucking the lymph node out of the “pocket”. A scalpel may be used to cut the lymph node out if difficult to remove by hand or with forceps/tweezers. If possible avoid cutting the lymph nodes to prevent cross contamination





After extracting one lymph node move to the opposite side and extract the other lymph node.

The lymph nodes vary in size from a small jelly bean to a walnut. Most are about $\frac{1}{2}$ x $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches in size.



The lymph node is a firm pale gray, pinkish, or light tan tissue that retains shape when pressure is applied and may be slightly glossy in appearance.

Be sure to place the sample in a Whirl-Pac or Ziploc bag and label with the CWD sample number or bar code label. Keep sample cold and submit as soon as possible to avoid deterioration of the tissue and possibly ruining the sample.

