

## Directional Terms & Planes of the Body

<b>Term</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>Aboral</b>	The end opposite the mouth of a radially symmetrical animal
<b>Oral</b>	The end containing the mouth of a radially symmetrical animal
<b>Anterior</b>	The head end: usually the end of a bilateral animal that meets the environment
<b>Posterior</b>	The tail end
<b>Caudal</b>	Toward the tail
<b>Cephalic/ Cranial</b>	Toward the head
<b>Distal</b>	Away from the point of attachment of a structure on the body (i.e. the toes are distal to the knee)
<b>Proximal</b>	Toward the point of attachment of a structure on the body (i.e. the hip is proximal to the knee)

<b>Term</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>Dorsal</b>	The back of an animal; usually the upper surface; synonymous for <i>posterior</i> for animals that walk upright
<b>Ventral</b>	The belly of an animal; usually the lower surface; synonymous for <i>anterior</i> for animals that walk upright
<b>Inferior</b>	Below a point of reference (i.e. the mouth is inferior to the nose on the face)
<b>Superior</b>	Above the point of reference (i.e. the head is superior to the chest)
<b>Lateral</b>	Away from the plane that divides a bilateral animal into mirror images
<b>Medial</b>	On or near the plane that divides a bilateral animal into mirror images

