

Origin: Neural spines of the fourth or fifth thoracic to the sixth lumbar vertebrae

Insertion: Medial surface of shaft of humerus at the proximal end

Action: Pulls forelimb dorsocaudally

****Sew and cut this muscle.**

DEEP THORACIC MUSCLES

Serratus ventralis m.

This is a large, fan-shaped muscle, made up of obvious individual slips, extending between the thorax and the scapula [Figure 2–13]. Notice that these individual slips are more conspicuous at the caudal end of this muscle. **In the human, this muscle is represented by two separate muscles, a cranial levator scapulae originating from the cervical vertebrae and the caudal serratus anterior originating from the ribs.**

Origin: From the surface of the first nine or ten ribs and the transverse processes of the last five cervical vertebrae

Insertion: Vertebral border of the scapula

Action: Draws the scapula toward the thoracic wall and helps to support the scapula

Scalenus anterior, posterior, and medius m.

These three bandlike muscles, scalenus anterior, the most ventral, scalenus posterior, the most dorsal, and scalenus medius, situated between the two, lie at an oblique angle along the lateral aspect of the thorax [Figure 2–13]. Cranially, these three muscles unite into a single band or bundle known as the scalene bundle [Figure 2–20A].

Origin: S. anterior m.—from the second and third ribs, S. posterior m.—from the third or fourth ribs, S. medius m.—from the sixth through the ninth ribs

Insertion: Transverse processes of all cervical vertebrae

Action: Bends the neck and pulls ribs cranially

****This is an example of a muscle whose origin and insertion may be reversed, thereby producing contrasting actions depending upon the fixed end.**

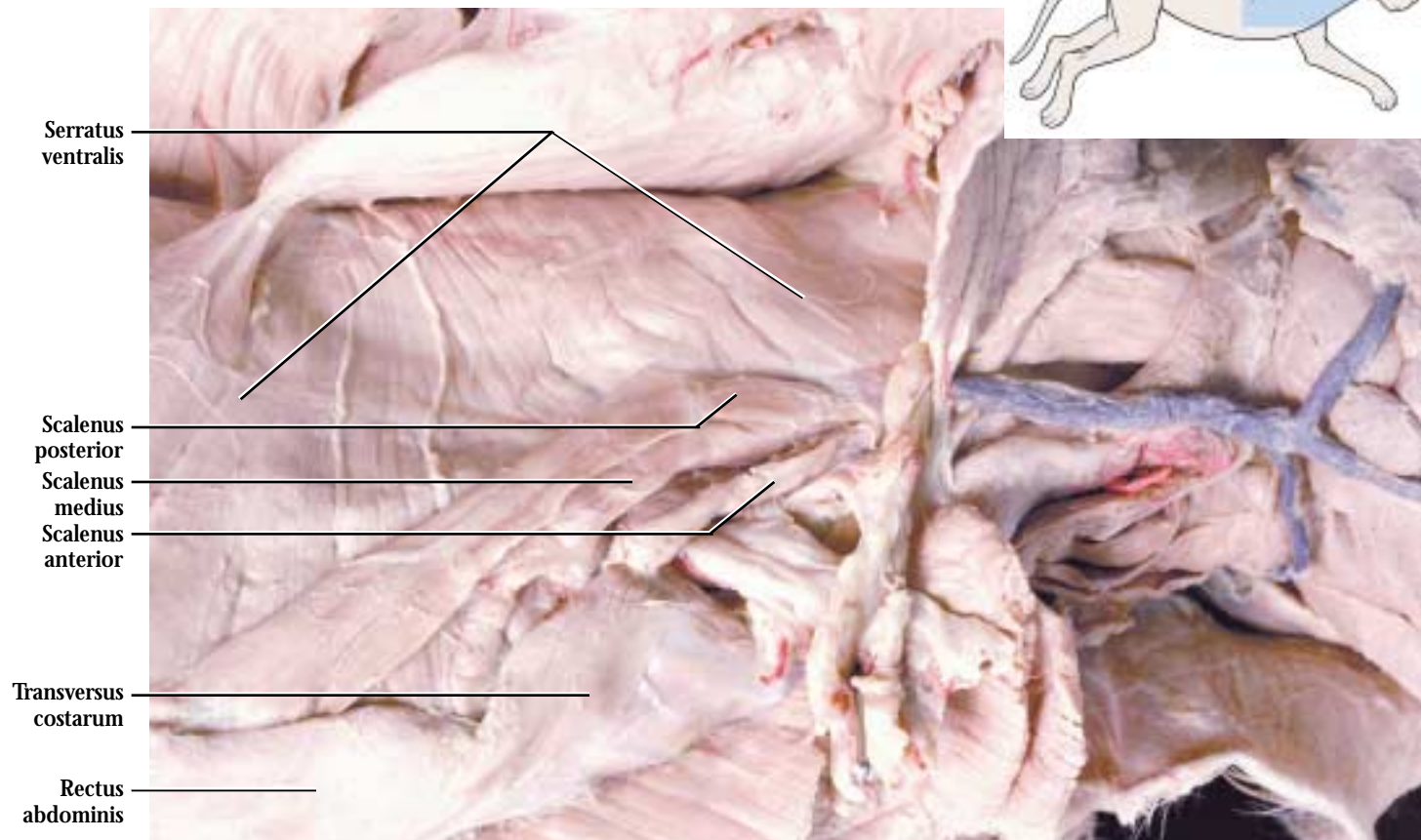


FIGURE 2–13 Cranial deep thoracic muscles. **NOTE:** This cat had an unusually long scalenus posterior.