

1. At your kitchen sink (or location with running tap water such as the bathtub), open the package that contains the rabbit by cutting the package along the side edge of the bag with household scissors (do not use your dissection scissors to open the package, as it will cause the blade of the dissection scissors to become dull). Flush the fluids from the bag down the sink with plenty of running water. Rinse both the rabbit and the inside of the bag with water. Keep the bag so that you may store the rabbit when this exercise is completed. Wash the scissors used to cut open the package with soap and water and dry them with a paper towel. See Figure 1.



Figure 1. Opening the bag and rinsing the dissection specimen with tap water.

2. Place the foam pad provided with the kit on the cookie sheet or tray and lay the pig ventral side up on top of the foam pad. The foam pad and cookie sheet/tray will be referred to as the dissection tray.

Note: If the rabbit will not completely fit on the dissection tray, place an unfolded trash bag under the dissection tray to protect your work surface.

3. Using the string, secure the fetal pig to the tray. To do this, tie a knot to the upper right limb of the rabbit, run the string under the tray, and tie a knot to the upper left limb of the fetal pig. Reduce any slack that may be in the string and then use the scissors to cut the excess string, securing the rabbit in place. The limbs should be spread apart as much as possible without damaging the fetal pig. See Figure 2.



Figure 2. Preparing the specimen for dissection. Securing the specimen to the tray: the string is connected to the limbs and is pulled under the tray.