

## **Lab 14 Dissection Steps:**

- Incise the remaining skin on the right forelimb from the caudal aspect of the elbow to the palmar surface of the third digit (passing through carpal, metacarpal and third digital pads)
- Carefully remove the skin from the forearm and paw, leaving vessels and nerves on the limb
- Identify the **cephalic vein** and the following veins that connect with it:
  - Identify **accessory cephalic v.**
  - Identify **median cubital v.**
  - Identify **axillobrachial v.**
  - Identify **omobrachial v.** (absent in the cat)
- Make a longitudinal incision through the medial antebrachial fascia, and extend the incision to the carpus. Remove the fascia from the forelimb.
- Transect the pronator teres m. and the flexor carpi radialis m. near their origins and reflect them to see the underlying continuation of the brachial artery.
  - Note that in the cat the brachial a. and median n. pass through the supracondylar foramen as they continue distally in the limb.
- Re-identify the **brachial artery** (previously identified in Lab13) and follow it distally in the forelimb. Identify the following off of the brachial a.:
  - Identify the **common interosseous a.** (in the dog; note that this common trunk is usually absent in the cat, although the individual branches noted below may be present.)
    - Identify the **ulnar a.** coming off of the common interosseous a. (dog); Separate the muscles on the caudomedial aspect of the forelimb to expose its course.
    - Identify the **caudal interosseous a.**; expose the pronator quadratus m. between the radius and ulna, cut its attachments to the bones and scrape the muscle out with a scalpel handle to expose the caudal interosseous a.
    - Attempt to identify the **cranial interosseous a.**

- ❑ After giving off the common interosseous a. (dog) or individual arterial branches (e.g., cranial and caudal interosseous aa. (cat)), the brachial artery changes names and continues as the median artery.
- ❑ Identify the **median a.** (This continuation will be large in the dog, but (very) small in the cat. In the cat it may be very difficult to see.)
- ❑ Transect the flexor retinaculum and superficial digital flexor tendon and reflect them to follow the median artery through the carpal canal.
- ❑ Identify the following given off of the median a.:
  - ❑ Identify the **deep antebrachial a.**
  - ❑ Identify the **superficial palmar arch**
  - ❑ Identify the **radial a.** (large in cat, small in dog)
- ❑ On the lateral side of the forelimb, transect the lateral head of the triceps brachii m. at its origin and reflect it distally to observe where the **radial n.** appears
  - ❑ Observe where the radial nerve divides into two branches; identify the **deep branch** of the radial nerve and the **superficial branch** of the radial nerve.
  - ❑ If needed, transect the extensor carpi radialis m. to follow these branches.
- ❑ Re-identify the **median n.** (previously identified in Lab 13) and trace it distally into the antebrachium; transect muscles as needed to follow the nerve.
- ❑ Re-identify the **ulnar n.** (previously identified in Lab 13) and trace it distally into the antebrachium; reflect muscles as needed to follow the nerve.
  - ❑ Identify the **dorsal** and **palmar branches** of the ulnar nerve