**Exploratory Laparotomy**

After reflecting the omental curtain, you should be able to exteriorize and palpate the following structures:

1. Find the easily exteriorized Caecum to then identify the other intestinal structures.
2. GO CRANIALLY to locate to where the smaller Ileum enters the junction between the caecum and the ascending colon. ILEUM
3. The jejunum located running proximally to the duodenojejunal flexure.
4. Greater mesentery suspends the ileum and jejunum from the dorsal abdominal wall.
5. Return to Caecum follow cranially to the ileocecocolic junction.
6. Reflect the caecum to see the spiral colon on the opposite side of the ileocecocolic junction.
7. The Left kidney: located high I the supraomental recess on the left side of the root of the mesentery and to the right of the rumen. (Its ureter is palpable)

**Cranial abdomen**

1. **Liver:** displaced to the right due to the size of the rumen. Right and left lobe is dorsal and ventral respectively. (Feel for abscess/enlargements/irregularities).
2. **Gall bladder:** hangs down from the caudoventral edge of the liver
3. **Diaphragm:** palpable lateral to the liver and cranial to the reticulum (rest hand here to feel heart beat).
4. **Reticulum:** against diaphragm. Feel for foreign bodies adhesions
5. **Omasum:** feels firm, round structure through omentum
6. **Lesser omentum**
7. **Abomasum:** locates ventral to the omasum as it lies on the floor of the abdominal wall. The fundus and the body is normally filled with ingesta.
8. **Pylorus:** can be found cranially following the descending duodenum. Normally contains firm ingesta. (pylorus can be exteriorized if the abomasum is not too full with ingesta)
9. **The right kidney:** dorsa to the descending duodenum, between the mesoduodenum and the abdominal wall.
10. The right ureter: extended caudally from the kidney, retroperitoneally.

**Structures of the caudal abdomen**

1. **Uterus and ovaries:** the ovaries are located near the pelvic inlet
2. **Urinary bladder:** located over the brim of the pelvis below the uterus

**Structures of the caudal abdomen**

1. **The rumen: fills the left side of the abdomen**
2. **Spleen: cranially on the left side of the rumen.**