

Did you know that you have the right to refuse to dissect animals in Virginia?

It's true! Each year, 10 million animals (including frogs, cats, and fetal pigs) are cruelly killed and then cut up in classrooms across the country—even though humane alternatives exist. Studies have shown that students who use alternatives to dissection perform just as well as—if not better than—students who cut up animals. You don't have to dissect animals! Explain to your teacher that you won't be dissecting and that the law [Va. Code Ann. § 22.1-200.01 (2004)] gives you the right to say no to cutting up animals in Virginia:

Local school divisions shall provide students with alternatives to animal dissection techniques within the relevant public school curriculum or course. [Va. Code Ann. § 22.1-200.01 (2004)]

The Virginia Board of Education has interpreted this statute to mean the following:

The alternative technique should be reasonably chosen to provide the student, through means other than dissection, with knowledge similar to that expected to be gained by other students

Testing procedures that do not require the use of dissected specimens should be an option for those who choose an alternative technique.

The school division should include notice of alternatives to animal dissection in the relevant biological sciences syllabi, student course selection guides, or local school division policies or directives.

Dissection is unnecessary and cruel. Stand up for animals, and exercise your rights. Choose not to dissect.

For more information or to get involved, visit PETAKids.com or e-mail us at PETAKids@peta.org.

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