

# Did you know that you have the right to refuse to dissect animals in New Mexico?

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 state policy [2005 State Board of Education Policy] gives you the right to say no to cutting up animals in New Mexico:

All science classes that include dissection activities as part of the curriculum shall provide virtual dissection techniques as alternative activities for any student who is opposed to real dissections for ethical, moral, cultural or religious reasons. Alternative techniques shall approximate the experience of real dissection activities as closely and appropriately as possible. A virtual dissection technique means carrying out dissection activities using computer two-dimensional or three-dimensional simulations, videotape or videodisk simulations, take-apart anatomical models, photographs, or anatomical atlases. [2005 State Board of Education Policy]

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](http://PETAkids.com) or e-mail us at [PETAkids@peta.org](mailto:PETAkids@peta.org).

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