

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

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 [24 Pa. Cons. Stat. §15-1522 (1992)] gives you the right to say no to cutting up animals in Pennsylvania:

(a) Public or nonpublic school pupils from kindergarten through grade twelve may refuse to dissect, vivisection, incubate, capture or otherwise harm or destroy animals or any parts thereof as part of their course of instruction.

(b) Schools shall notify incoming pupils and their parents or guardians of the right to decline to participate in an education project involving harmful or destructive use of animals and authorize parents or guardians to assert the right of their children to refuse to participate in those projects. Notice shall be given not less than three (3) weeks prior to the scheduled course exercise which involves the use of animals.

(c) A pupil who chooses to refrain from participation in or observation of a portion of a course of instruction in accordance with this section shall be offered an alternative education project for the purpose of providing the pupil an avenue for obtaining the factual knowledge, information or experience required by the course of study. If tests require harmful or destructive use of animals, pupils shall be offered alternative tests. A pupil shall not be discriminated against based upon his or her decision to exercise the right afforded that pupil by this section, and lowering a grade because a pupil has chosen an alternative education project or test is strictly prohibited. [24 Pa. Cons. Stat. §15-1522 (1992)]

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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