

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

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 [New Jersey Statue § 18A:35-4.25] gives you the right to say no to cutting up animals in New Jersey:

A public school pupil from kindergarten through grade 12 may refuse to dissect, vivisection, incubate, capture or otherwise harm or destroy animals or any parts thereof as part of a course of instruction. A school shall notify pupils and their parents or guardians at the beginning of each school year of the right to decline to participate in the activities enumerated in subsection a. of this section and shall authorize parents or guardians to assert the right of their children to refuse to participate in these activities. Within two weeks of the receipt of the notice, the pupils, parents or guardians shall notify the school if the right to decline participation in the enumerated activities will be exercised.

Any 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 with the factual knowledge, information or experience required by the course of study. A pupil may refuse to participate in an alternative education project which involves or necessitates any harmful use of an animal or animal parts.

A pupil shall not be discriminated against, in grading or in any other manner, based upon a decision to exercise the rights afforded pursuant to this act. [New Jersey Statute § 18A:35-4.25]

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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