

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

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 [16 V.S.A. § 912] gives you the right to say no to cutting up animals in Vermont:

(a) A student in a public elementary or secondary school or an approved independent school shall have the right to be excused from participating in any lesson, exercise, or assessment requiring the student to dissect, vivisection, or otherwise harm or destroy an animal or any part of an animal, or to observe any of these activities, as part of a course of instruction.

(b) Each school district and approved independent school shall adopt and implement policies regarding a student's right to be excused under this section, which shall include:

(1) Procedures by which the school shall provide:

(A) Timely notification to each student enrolled in the course and to the student's parent or guardian of the student's right to be excused from participating in or observing the lesson; and

(B) The process by which a student may exercise this right.

(2) Alternative education methods through which a student excused under this section can learn and be assessed on material required by the course.

(3) A statement that no student shall be discriminated against based on his or her decision to exercise the right to be excused afforded by this section. [16 V.S.A. § 912]

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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