



# QUESTIONS ABOUT DISSECTION

OK, WE ALL KNOW THAT SLICING INTO FROGS, FETAL PIGS, WORMS, CATS, AND OTHER ANIMALS IS GROSS. ARE ANY OF THESE OTHER STATEMENTS TRUE?

- A** Animals used for dissection are treated cruelly before they are killed.
- B** Dissection hurts the environment.
- C** Stolen or lost companion animals end up on classroom dissection tables.
- D** Telling students to cut into animals teaches insensitivity.
- E** There are better ways to learn biology that don't hurt animals.
- F** All of the above.

**F** All are true. Cutting up animals in biology class is disgusting, but there are lots of other reasons why students are smart to drop their scalpels and ask for other projects that don't involve animals.



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#### **WHERE DO THE ANIMALS COME FROM?**

Millions of frogs, rats, cats, dogs, pigs, and other animals used for dissection each year suffer when they are caged, shipped, and cruelly killed.

Countless frogs shipped to science classes are snatched from their homes in rivers and ponds, contributing to environmental problems. When frog populations drop, insect populations explode, which can cause major crop damage. Collecting frogs for dissection could even lead to their extinction. Many frog species are suffering huge population losses or have completely disappeared within the last three decades, including northern leopard frogs, the most commonly dissected frogs in biology classes.

Animal shelters are supposed to be safe places for lost or homeless animals, but some pounds and shelters sell cats and dogs for use in dissection. Many companion animals are stolen right from back yards and porches by thieves (called "bunchers") who make money selling them for use in experiments and dissection. If you dissect cats or dogs in science class, you might be cutting up someone's best friend who was lost or stolen.

#### **ARE THERE BETTER WAYS TO LEARN BIOLOGY?**

Yes! More and more students are saying, "Cut it out!" to dissection. Many teachers and schools offer humane alternatives to dissection, including computer programs, films, diagrams, and realistic or larger-than-life models, and several states have passed laws requiring schools to provide students with humane alternatives to dissection, such as CD-ROMs and virtual dissections.

Being the first one in the class to say, "I don't want to cut up animals," is sometimes hard to do, but many students report that because they spoke out against dissection, others joined their protest. Contact us for more information on how you can "cut out dissection" in your school and for helpful hints on approaching teachers and administrators:

[peta2.com](http://peta2.com)

PEOPLE FOR THE ETHICAL TREATMENT OF ANIMALS

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