

# DID YOU KNOW

you have the right to **refuse to dissect animals**  
in Virginia?

It's true! Each year, countless animals (including frogs, cats, and birds) are cruelly killed and then cut up in classrooms across the country—even though humane methods exist. Studies have shown that students who use humane dissection methods perform just as well as—and often better than—students who cut up animals. You don't have to dissect! Explain to your teacher that you won't and that a law gives you the right to say NO to doing so in Virginia. This is what it says:

**Va. Code Ann. § 22.1-200.01 (2004)**

Local school divisions shall provide students with alternatives to animal dissection techniques within the relevant public school curriculum or course.

The Virginia Board of Education has interpreted this statute to mean the following:

The alternative technique should be reasonably chosen to provide the student, through means other than dissection, with knowledge similar to that expected to be gained by other students ....

Testing procedures that do not require the use of dissected specimens should be an option for those who choose an alternative technique.

The school division should include notice of alternatives to animal dissection in the relevant biological sciences syllabi, student course selection guides, or local school division policies or directives.

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Animal dissection is unnecessary and cruel. Exercise your rights and stand up for animals by choosing not to dissect them. For more information or to get involved, visit [CutOutDissection.com](http://CutOutDissection.com) or e-mail us at [hello@peta2.com](mailto:hello@peta2.com).

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