

Instruction**Dissection of Animals in the Classroom**

The dissection of animals has a long and well-established place in the teaching of life sciences. Well constructed dissection activities conducted by thoughtful instructors can illustrate important and enduring principles in biology. Learning theory further reinforces the benefit of learning from active experiences rather than passive learning alone. Region 10 schools believe that dissection of animals is a valuable method of giving students a motivating, active biological experience in the study of the anatomy and physiology of organisms. When dissection is used in the classroom it is imperative that it is part of an approved and supervised curriculum and that:

- a. the teacher thoroughly explains the learning objectives of the lesson and utilizes additional worksheet/audiovisual materials to maximize the educational benefit of the experience.
- b. All specimens be treated with respect.
- c. All students will be informed, prior to the dissection, that they have the option of discussing individual objections to dissection with the appropriate teacher/administrator. It is possible that such students may be given an alternative assignment. All decisions regarding this matter will be made on an individual basis by the teacher/administrator.

Policy adopted: 1993  
Policy reviewed: July 1, 2009