

Instruction

Dissection of Animals in the Classroom for Required Courses

The dissection of animals has a long and well-established place in the teaching of life sciences. Well-constructed dissection activities led by thoughtful instructors can illustrate important enduring principles in biology (1) Learning theory scholars recognize that active participation by students is preferable to passive reception of the content to be learned (2) The Hamden Public Schools believe that dissection of animals is a valuable method of giving students a motivating, active biological experience in the study of anatomy and physiology of organisms. When dissection is used in the classroom, an alternative experience must be provided for the child with an approved objection.

- A. The teacher should thoroughly explain the learning objectives of the lesson and utilize additional worksheet/audio-visual materials to maximize the educational benefit of the experience.
- B. All specimens should be treated with respect.
- C. All students will be informed prior to dissection that they have the option of dissecting. Individual objections to dissection will be discussed with the appropriate teacher/administrator and parent. Such students may be given an alternate assignment. All decisions regarding this matter will be made on an individual basis by the teacher/administrator.
- D. Upon completion of dissection, the remains should be disposed of appropriately as recommended by the local Department of Public Health.