The National Association of Biology Teachers should foster a respect for life and should teach about the interrelationship and interdependency of all living things. Furthermore, they should teach that humans must care for the fragile web of life that exists on this planet. In light of these principles, NABT supports alternatives to dissection and vivisection wherever possible in the biology curricula.
1989 Policy Statement from *The Responsible Use of Animals in Biology* Classrooms by the National Association of Biology Teachers

Which violates the respective individual's rights more: if we force an individual (a student) to injure, harm, inflict pain on, or kill an animal when his or her conscience dictates otherwise; or if we force another individual (a teacher) merely to add a supplemental noninvasive procedure to the curriculum?
Kenneth Shapiro, Ph.D., Director Psychologists for the Ethical Treatment of Animals

Students should not be forced to participate in the death of animals in order to study and understand the beauty and complexity of life.
John E. McArdle, Ph.D. Anatomist

Two years ago, when I was in 7th grade, we had to do a project in science class which consisted of dissecting a frog. I had recently become a vegetarian out of morality so I was opposed to this. I told my teacher my feelings but she was very hostile. She [said] that if I did not dissect, my science grade average would drop from an A to an F. She did not give me an alternative.

Next year, in biology class, I will be expected to dissect once again. I am not going to do it. My grade will probably be dropped…I don't feel it is right for the school to drop my grade because I refuse to do something that violates my ethical beliefs. There should be an alternative.
Cheryl

Many people think students should have the right to an alternative.

In biology classes in most of the United States, in grade school through high school, students who object to dissection are being asked to choose between lowered or failing grades and the violation of their religious and ethical principles. This is not a choice students should be forced to make.

Concerns about dissection and vivisection requirements are on the rise, as more and more students question the killing of 3–5 million animals annually in the U.S. for non-essential educational purposes.

These students, their parents, and many of their teachers are demanding an alternative learning experience—one which doesn't involve harm to animals.

Students who object to dissection and vivisection should have the right to have their convictions respected. Several states have already initiated legislation to protect students' rights, and Pennsylvania, California and Florida already have passed laws guaranteeing students the right to choose. It is time for all states to acknowledge students' deeply held values by allowing them to participate in alternate educational exercises.

Several years ago, both I and my biology teacher decided that students could learn just as much about frogs and their anatomy from charts and textbooks as they could from actual dissection.
Peter McMonigle High School Principal

I took an elective anatomy course [in 11th grade] and one of the requirements was to dissect a rhesus monkey. It was a sticky situation for me because I did not want to dissect, but I had to in order to obtain a credit that was needed for graduation….One day it was my turn to make the incisions; the stomach of our monkey had always looked larger than the others, but never in a million years did I think that anyone would be cruel enough to use a pregnant monkey for dissection. That was the last day I ever went back into the dissection room. Students hardly learn anything from [dissection] at all—I know I didn't.
Dawn

The alienation of students opposed to [dissection], coupled with the fact that alternatives exist which provide students with opportunities designed to master appropriate content, make forced dissection an unacceptable practice.
Sheila Schwartz, Ph.D., Director Humane Education Committee

We educators teach and require courtesy and respect from our students. It only seems fair to accord them the same respect. Education should not place students in a position in which they have to violate their moral and ethical standards.
Virginia Wolfe Fifth grade teacher