

science” when these animals are killed for science education.

If the idea of harming animals makes you sad or uncomfortable, don’t be ashamed or afraid. It’s okay to care about animals. You are not alone. Thousands of other students, from elementary school through college, are bothered by dissection and have chosen not to do it.

In fact, in two states (California and Florida) there are laws to make sure that students who have strong feelings against dissection don’t have to dissect, or watch the teacher or other students dissect. These laws also state that a student’s grade can’t be lowered because the student refuses to dissect. The student must be allowed to learn about science in other ways. These other ways are called “alternatives.” Some alternatives and the companies that supply them are described at the end of this booklet.

Remember, it’s okay to care about animals. *You have a right to have your feelings respected.* If dissection or experimenting on animals in your class bothers you, let your parents know. Explain to them how you feel, and ask for their support.

We at the Dissection Hotline hope this booklet is helpful. If you need more help or information, please call us at 1-800-922-FROG (1-800-922-3764). There is no charge for this telephone call.

Your friend,

Pat Graham

Pat Graham, Hotline Director

Here are some things you can do if you don’t want to dissect



Talk to your teacher. Most teachers care about their students and are willing to help. Tell your teacher how you feel. Be sure your teacher knows you are not simply trying to get out of work. Offer to do an alternative project of the same amount of time as the dissection project.



Talk to other students. They may feel the way you do. You may want to start a club or a support group. Remember, there is strength in numbers. If a lot of students feel the same way, a petition may be a good idea. You should present the petition to your teacher and your principal. This will show them that a number of students in your school share your feelings and want an alternative to dissection.



If your school has a school newspaper, write a letter to the editor, or an article explaining how you feel about dissection. Ask other students to write letters, too.



Ask your parents to help. They can contact other parents, either individually or through groups such as the PTA. They can even form their own support groups. Teachers, principals and school board members will usually listen to concerned parents.