

Instruction

Using Animals in the Educational Program¹

Animals may be brought into school facilities for educational purposes according to procedures developed by the Superintendent assuring: (a) the animal is appropriately housed, humanely cared for, and properly handled, and (b) students will not be exposed to a dangerous animal or an unhealthy environment.²

Animal Experiments

Experiments on living animals are prohibited; however, behavior studies that do not impair an animal's health or safety are permissible.³

Animal Dissection

The dissection of dead animals or parts of dead animals shall be allowed in the classroom only when the dissection exercise contributes to or is a part of an illustration of pertinent study materials. All dissection of animals shall be confined to the classroom and must comply with the School Code.

Students who object to performing, participating in, or observing the dissection of animals are excused from classroom attendance without penalty during times when such activities are taking place.⁴ No student will be penalized or disciplined for refusing to perform, participate in, or observe a dissection. The Superintendent or designee shall inform students of: (1) their right to refrain from performing, participating in, or observing dissection, and (2) which courses contain a dissection unit and which of those courses offers an alternative project.⁵

LEGAL REF.: 105 ILCS 5/2-3.122 and 5/27-265.
105 ILCS 5/112, Dissection Alternatives Act.

CROSS REF.: 6:40 (Curriculum Development)

¹ State or federal law controls this policy's content.

² This paragraph is optional and is not controlled by State or federal statute or rule.

³ This sentence's first clause is required by 105 ILCS 5/27-265, renumbered by P.A. 104-391; the clause after the semi-colon is a reasonable interpretation that will allow the use of mouse-mazes.

⁴ 105 ILCS 112/25 prohibits schools from penalizing a student who refuses to perform, participate in, or observe dissection.

⁵ ISBE's guidelines for helping schools give notice to students, parents, teachers, and administrators are available at: www.isbe.net/Documents/alternatives_dissection_2000.pdf#search=dissection. State law does not require that objecting students receive an alternative project. Instead, it says that the student may be given an alternative project that provides the student, through means other than dissection, with knowledge similar to that expected to be gained during the dissection project.