

# Dissection Regulations and Statutes

---

Dissection is an important option for many classroom settings. The teacher must comply with statute regarding the use of specimens in classrooms.

1003.47.1 (a) No surgery or dissection shall be performed on any living mammalian vertebrate or bird. Dissection may be performed on nonliving mammals or birds secured from a recognized source of such specimens and under supervision of qualified instructors. Students may be excused upon written request of a parent.

The full statute may be accessed as follows:

- [http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/FileStores/Web/Statutes/FS09/CH1003/Section\\_1003.47.HTM](http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/FileStores/Web/Statutes/FS09/CH1003/Section_1003.47.HTM)

Specimens must be obtained from a recognized supplier who can document the source of the specimens as well as the humane method of euthanasia.

A dissection must be an appropriate use of instructional time tied directly with the mastery of a benchmark.

Students may not be excluded from a dissection or any other lab based on any academic or behavior incentive system.

The parents of a student may send a written request for the student to opt out of a dissection.

Teachers need to use the resources in the reference pages of the curriculum guide to provide appropriate alternatives. The alternative must be educationally equivalent and in no way punitive.

For the elective course Anatomy and Physiology, in which dissection is integral to the system-based learning objectives, the syllabus must clearly communicate the weight of dissection in the final grade.

Students seeking Anatomy & Physiology with a no-dissection option should be directed to the virtual course offered through Florida Virtual Schools.