

Cost Analysis of Dissection Versus Nonanimal Teaching Methods

PHYSICIANS COMMITTEE FOR RESPONSIBLE MEDICINE

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As more and more students object to the use of animals in education, it is important for school administrators to look at the benefits of humane alternatives. Not only do alternatives cost thousands of dollars less than dissection, but they last for years and do not need to be re-ordered for each incoming class. With alternatives, students can perform the lessons at their own speed, make-up missed classes, review the programs until they have a firm grasp of the material, while gaining considerable computer experience. The all-too-common disciplinary problems associated with dissection are eliminated when the laboratories are replaced. Also, there is virtually no risk of injury from sharp objects or from the side-effects of preserving agents, many of which are carcinogenic and can trigger severe asthma and allergy attacks.

Listed below are estimated cost savings for some of the most common animal dissections. It is important to note that these estimates actually understate the savings realized, as the alternatives are one-time investments while the dissection materials must be purchased anew each and every year. For more information on alternatives, please contact PCRM.

ANIMAL	ALTERNATIVE AND COST	DISSECTION AND COST	ALTERNATIVES SAVINGS
Frog	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Digital Frog</i> CD-ROM \$196.95 • <i>Dissection Works</i> CD-ROM \$59.95 • <i>The Great American Bullfrog</i> Model \$694.00 	Dissection Set \$507.50 Dissection Pans \$437.50 "T"-Pins \$8.89 35 Frogs \$264.70 TOTAL COST: \$1,218.59	TOTAL SAVINGS: \$524.59 - \$1,158.64
Fetal Pig	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Dissection Works</i> CD-ROM \$59.95 • <i>BioLab Pig</i> CD-ROM \$49.00 • <i>Fetal Pig, Female</i> Model \$325.00 	Dissection Set \$507.50 Dissection Pans \$1,662.50 "T"-Pins \$8.89 Hook and Chain Sets \$76.65 35 Fetal Pigs \$413.75 TOTAL COST: \$2,669.29	TOTAL SAVINGS: \$2,344.29 - \$2,620.29
Cat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Cat Dissection Laboratory</i> CD-ROM \$295.00 • <i>CatLab 2.2</i> CD-ROM \$149.00 • <i>Pregnant Cat</i> Model \$399.00 	Dissection Set \$507.50 Dissection Pans \$1,645.00 "T"-Pins \$8.89 Hook and Chain Sets \$76.65 35 Cats \$911.00 TOTAL COST: \$3,149.04	TOTAL SAVINGS: \$2,750.04 - \$3,000.04
Earthworm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Dissection Works</i> CD-ROM \$59.95 • <i>BioLab Invertebrate</i> CD-ROM \$49.95 • <i>Earthworm</i> Model \$445.00 	Dissection Set \$507.50 Dissection Pans \$437.50 "T"-Pins \$8.89 35 Earthworms \$14.60 TOTAL COST: \$968.49	TOTAL SAVINGS: \$523.49 - \$918.54
Starfish	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>BioLab Invertebrate</i> CD-ROM \$49.95 • <i>Biology Dissection</i> CD-ROM \$29.95 • <i>Starfish Model</i> Model \$149.00 	Dissection Set \$507.50 Dissection Pans \$437.50 "T"-Pins \$8.89 35 Starfish \$73.00 TOTAL COST: \$1,026.89	TOTAL SAVINGS: \$877.89 - \$996.94

Dissecting Set: \$14.50 each x 35 = \$507.50 Re-Usable "T"-Pins: \$8.89 per 1/2-pound bag Hook and Chain Sets: \$2.19 each x 35 = \$76.65
 Re-Usable Aluminum Dissecting Pan Set: \$12.50 - \$47.00 each x 35 = \$437.50 - \$1,645.00