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It's a Frog's Life: Dissection Alternatives in Zoology Education

InterNICHE and Animalearn Partner to Promote Global Access

June 25, 2010- InterNICHE, the International Network for Humane Education, is partnering with Animalearn, the educational division of the American Anti-Vivisection Society (AAVS) and home of *The Science Bank* loan program, to help increase the use of humane alternatives to the harmful use of animals in biology and zoology across the globe.

InterNICHE and Animalearn will be donating and distributing over 500 copies of Digital Frog 2.0 digital dissection software to educators, students, and campaigners in over 50 countries to help bring to an end the catching, killing and cutting of frogs.

According to Nick Jukes, InterNICHE Coordinator, "The use of frogs for dissection and experiments continues in many biology and zoology teaching labs across the world, with teachers often unaware of the pedagogical, ethical, environmental and economic advantages of alternatives."

Animalearn Director Laura Ducceschi states, "Animalearn is pleased to partner with InterNICHE to help further the worldwide use of humane alternatives." She adds, "We're making these alternatives easily accessible because many educators and students are unaware that millions of frogs are killed unnecessarily for use in classroom teaching labs."

For example, in just one country, Egypt, it has been estimated that 1.5 million frogs were dissected each year – until such widespread collection decimated frog populations and upset the balance of local ecosystems¹. Interest in alternatives is now growing.

The Digital Frog 2.0 CD-ROM is ideal for secondary school and university instruction in biology and zoology. It includes several sections: the anatomy section for easy study of structure and function; the comparative anatomy section for students to see how humans and frogs differ internally; and the ecology section for students to gain a greater understanding and appreciation of the frog and its ecological context.

The distribution of Digital Frog 2.0 will be organised through InterNICHE National Contacts, Partners and other collaborators across the world. Following the InterNICHE and Animalearn approaches of working with educators to enhance the quality and ensure the humanity of practical classes, donations will be made to schools, colleges and universities where the dissection of purpose-killed frogs can be ended, and to other recipients to consolidate progressive change that has already occurred. Students and campaigners will also be provided with copies of the software to use in practical classes and to further promote in their countries.

InterNICHE, the International Network for Humane Education, is a global network of teachers, students and campaigners working to enhance the quality of life science education and training by replacing harmful animal use with progressive, humane alternatives. See www.interniche.org

Animalearn, the educational division of the American Anti-Vivisection Society (AAVS), works with educators, students and others to achieve quality humane science education without harmful use of animals. Visit www.animalearn.org or call (+1) (800)729-2287.

InterNICHE and Animalearn also credit PCRM, the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine, for authorised duplication of the CD-ROMs.

ⁱ The Disappearing Frog of Egypt by Mohammed Yahia (April 2007):
http://www.islamonline.net/servlet/Satellite?c=Article_C&cid=1175751850991&pagina me=Zone-English-HealthScience/HSELayout