

### **Lori Kort - Vermont**

An issue came up in my science class when we started our unit on life science. We were going to be performing dissections and observing two specimens: frogs and worms. Since I don't believe in using animals for science, I wasn't about to cut one up. There are many, many alternative ways you can learn about worms, crayfish, frogs, etc. without performing dissection. There are high quality posters, slides, videos, books, and computer programs available, as well as natural observation. These alternatives range from no cost to several hundred dollars.

Our schools might say that it would cost too much to purchase alternatives, but you see, a computer program is bought once and used over and over again. Once a frog is cut open, we're not about to sew it back together (although it would be nice). Another argument might be that dissection is included in the curriculum and we would be missing information that is required, but there is no difference in the knowledge gained through dissection and through alternatives. I did not perform the worm dissection in my classroom and I still got an "A" on the quiz. That shows you do not need to kill something to learn about it. I'm not asking that you ban dissection altogether, (although it would be nice). I'm just saying that people should have a choice. I respect other people's views and hope they will respect mine. The next time you are looking through the curriculum for the upcoming year, please think about alternatives to dissection. It will save lives and money.

*Lori contacted Animalearn for information on dissection alternatives. The previous essay was researched and written as an alternative project to her classroom dissection.*