

Fur Real: The Truth of Cat Dissection

Millions of people share their homes and hearts with cats and view them as important members of the family. However, despite our affinity for cats, they are commonly used as dissection tools in classrooms nationwide.

How are Cats Obtained for Education?



- Biological supply companies acquire cadavers of euthanized cats (including pregnant cats & kittens) from pounds and shelters at low costs & resell them to schools for up to 10–20 times that amount.
- Animal dealers also may obtain cats from pounds, auctions, private breeders, or "free to good home" ads.
- One investigation documented dealers from Mexico selling lost, stray, or abandoned cats from streets and shelters to U.S. biological supply companies.
- Ultimately, all parties involved profit from the tragedy of shelters being unable to find adoptive homes for all cats, many of whom are former pets.



What are the Ethical Problems with Cat Dissection?

- When animals are sold from shelters and pounds, including those who have been euthanized, it is a violation of the public trust and can lead to a conflict of interest. Some educators have reported finding microchips or toys in cats they were dissecting, indicating that they were once someone's companion.
- Disrespectful and inappropriate incidents have occurred while students were dissecting cats. In one instance in a Texas school district, a student was jumping rope with the cats' intestines in an inhumane video that went viral, forcing the school to react to public outcry and declaring that they would no longer conduct cat dissections within the entire school district.

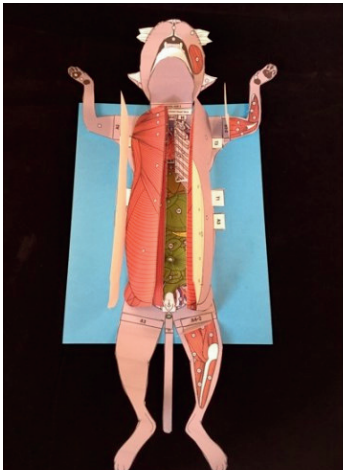


photo credit: Getting Nerdy® with Mel & Gerdy

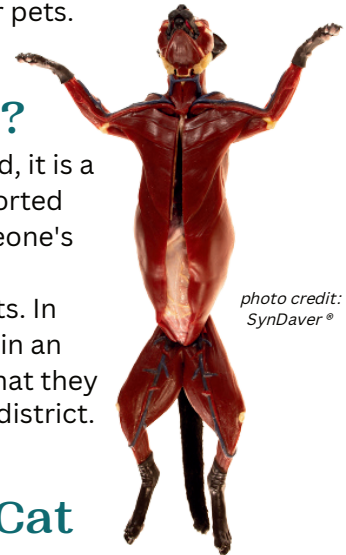


photo credit:
SynDaver®

What are the Alternatives to Cat Dissection & Where Can I Find Them?

There are many hands-on, innovative alternatives available to help students learn anatomy & physiology which do not involve cat dissection, such as:

- SynDaver® CopyCat® Feline Anatomy Model, which is fully dissectible.
- Getting Nerdy® with Mel & Gerdy's Scienstructable 3D Cat Dissection Model®.
- Anatomy in Clay® Learning System, which showcases numerous studies demonstrating the effectiveness of their system as a better learning method compared to cat dissections. (Read studies here: anatomyinclay.com/post/research)
- Innovative cat dissection mobile apps, like 3D Cat Anatomy from Biosphera, and AR/VR technology, like the VR Purrfect Procedure from VictoryXR™.
- Animalearn's free loan program of dissection alternatives, The Science Bank, offers a variety of humane cat dissection options.

Visit www.thesciencebank.org to browse our feline-friendly resources.

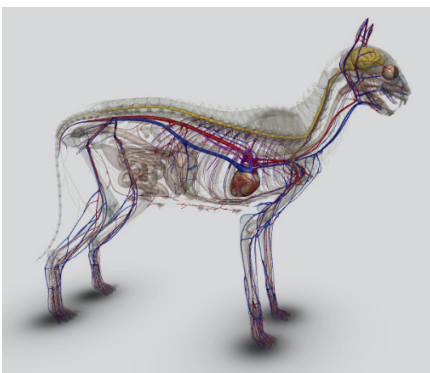


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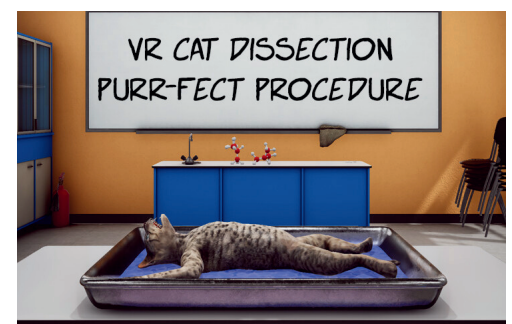


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