Do Our Schools Give A's for Cruelty?

Animal Rights International

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Do our schools give A's for cruelty?

We have enough violence and cruelty in New York. We don't need to promote it in our schools. Yet in New York State, students in all grades, elementary through high school, are routinely allowed to inflict violent harm on living animals.

In a recent research project, students surgically removed the ovaries of a hamster. Observers later described the hamster as "bloody and wet," with pins holding the incisions together, lying on a blood-soaked bed of wood shavings.

Is it in your child's best interest to be permitted (and even encouraged) to drown a bird to obtain an unmarred skeleton? Or repeatedly administer shocks to mice?

As you know, New York State school children may be poisoning, electrocuting, starving, or otherwise abusing rabbits, mice, hamsters, and birds. New York State allows children to surgically mutilate and otherwise inflict acute suffering on animals. Shouldn't we rather teach our children that life is not cheap and that helpless animals do feel pain?

Schools should promote respect for life, not desensitize young impressionable minds. But, the fact is, compassionate state legislators who have tried to pass laws that would end these cruelties to animals have, for years, had their efforts obstructed by the New York State Dept. of Education.

Cruel treatment of animals in schools and science fairs repels sensitive youngsters from the life sciences. In contrast, elegant and humane approaches such as the microscope for basic biological principles, video documentaries like Jane Goodall's observations of tool-using chimpanzees or the newest computer simulations to assess how organisms adapt for survival, can inspire and intrigue youthful imaginations.

If you worry about what New York State schools are teaching your child about sensitivity, write to the following decision makers and urge them to support legislation which promotes life and feeling not death and callousness.

Write to: 1) Your New York State Assemblyperson and Senator. 2) Senator Ralph Marino. He has expressed concern about animal mistreatment and as Senate Majority Leader he is in a key position to further the passage of this legislation.

All Assemblypersons can be addressed at the Legislative Office Building, Albany, N.Y. 12248; all Senators at the Legislative Office Building, Albany, N.Y. 12247.

In addition, write or call the New York State Department of Education, urging its support for this legislation.

Commissioner Thomas Sobol, New York State Department of Education, 89 Washington Avenue, Albany, N.Y. 12244. Tel: 518·474.5844. You can run this ad. This ad is produced by Animal Rights International, and is not copyrighted.

We invite you or your organization to run it with your name.

Animal Rights Int'l. (ARI)
Henry Spira, Coordinator
Box 214, Planetarium Stn.
New York, NY 10024

Here's my tax-deductible contribution to ARI to run this and related ads.

Enclosed is a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Please send me more information on what I can do to help stop animal suffering.

Name (please print) ____________________________
Address ____________________________
City ______ State ______ Zip Code ____________