



# NYSBA News Release

**Release: Immediate**

December 8, 2008

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## **NEW YORK STATE BAR ASSOCIATION'S COMMITTEE ON ANIMALS & THE LAW OFFERS RESOURCES TO HELP TEACHERS WITH HUMANE EDUCATION CURRICULA**

ALBANY--The New York State Bar Association's Committee on Animals and the Law reminds educators that Humane education is important to the well rounded development of our children. It is widely accepted that the way young children are taught to treat animals often lays the groundwork for the way they will learn to interact with adults.

On the books since 1947, New York State's humane education law requires instruction on the elementary school level "in the humane treatment and protection of animals and the importance of the part they play in the economy of nature." The law also addresses population control as it relates to animal abandonment and cruelty.

An abundance of free resources -- ranging from lesson plans and policies on humane education ([www.animalearn.org](http://www.animalearn.org)) to alternatives to hands-on dissection of animals -- are available to assist schools. Alternative materials are available through the following websites:

- The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) ([www.hsus.org](http://www.hsus.org))
- The International Network for Humane Education (InterNICHE) ([www.interniche.org](http://www.interniche.org))
- The Education Resources Center ([www.eric.ed.gov](http://www.eric.ed.gov))
- Animalearn ([www.animalearn.org](http://www.animalearn.org))
- The Ethical Science and Education Coalition (ESEC) ([www.neavs.org/esec/alternatives](http://www.neavs.org/esec/alternatives))

Members of the Animal and the Law Committee also remind teachers that the state law provides that any student with a moral or religious objection to performing or witnessing the dissection of an animal -- substantiated in writing by a parent or guardian -- should be able to do an alternative project without being penalized.

The Committee on Animals and the Law was established to provide an information resource for the Association's members, governments and the public about non-human, animal-related humane issues which arise from and have an effect upon our legal system. The Association also houses the Law, Youth and Citizenship Program ([www.lycny.org](http://www.lycny.org)) which has provided civic education resources to teachers and classes throughout New York for three decades.

The 74,000 member New York State Bar Association is the official statewide organization of lawyers in New York and the largest voluntary state bar association in the nation. Founded in 1876, NYSBA programs and activities have continuously served the public and improved the justice system for more than 130 years.

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