

ers. The problem of improving science instruction can be met through the joint efforts

of teachers, local and state agencies, colleges, and national organizations.

### Live Animals in Teaching

Large numbers of science teachers are encouraging their students to conduct original scientific explorations, in addition to the standard canned "experiments" normally performed in the classroom. Almost everybody seems to be pleased with the idea of teaching science through actual experience in scientific investigation—as long as the pupils are restricted to investigating chemicals or gadgets and not living creatures. Some people, notably some animal welfare workers, believe that there is something basically wrong with using animals to teach science, even though the studies are humane and carefully supervised.

These people have harassed principals and science teachers in schools all over America. They have pressured local school boards into putting a taboo on even bringing live animals into the classroom for observation purposes. In five states, they have already succeeded in making biology a forbidden science by getting laws enacted which prohibit all or nearly all study of animals in public schools.

Obviously there can be no argument that animals studied by students should be treated humanely. But this is not the question, since any study involving a living creature is apt to be properly supervised in the classroom. The real question is whether or not there is anything immoral in students studying live animals.

On the other hand, medical scientists feel that the opportunity to study life through the study of living creatures should not be denied precollege students. They agree with science teachers who hold that one cannot become a biologist or a doctor in a library any more than one can learn how to swim without water.

These states prohibit all or nearly all study of animals in public schools:

*Illinois:* "No experiment upon any living creature for the purpose of demonstration in any study shall be made in any public school of this State. No animal provided by, nor killed in the presence of, any pupil of

a public school shall be used for dissection in such school, and in no case shall dogs or cats be killed for such purposes . . ."

*Maine:* "No person in any of the schools of the State supported wholly or in part by public money shall practice vivisection or perform any experiment upon a living animal or exhibit to any pupil in such school an animal which has been vivisected or experimented upon . . ."

*Massachusetts:* "No person shall, in the presence of a pupil in any public school, practice vivisection or exhibit a vivisected animal. Dissection of dead animals or any portions thereof in such schools shall be confined to the classroom and to the presence of pupils engaged in the study to be promoted thereby and shall in no case be for the purpose of exhibition . . ."

*Oklahoma:* "No experiments on any living creature shall be permitted in any public school. This provision shall be enforced by the State superintendent of public instruction, the county superintendent of public instruction, and the principals of each public school. No teacher in the public schools shall be entitled to receive any portion of the public school moneys as compensation for services, unless such teachers shall have complied with this provision."

*Washington:* "No teacher or other person employed in any school of the State of Washington, except medical or dental school or medical or dental department of any school, shall practice vivisection upon any vertebrate animal in the presence of any pupil in said school, or any child or minor there present; nor in such presence shall exhibit any vertebrate animal upon which vivisection has been practiced."

*Pennsylvania:* "No cruel experiment on any living creature shall be permitted in any public school." Also, "Unclaimed dogs in the custody of police officers shall not be sold for the purpose of vivisection."

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