

Dissection Waiver

This course requires the dissection (and dispatching) of live animals.

WHY? Physiology is the science of how animals work. You must be able to manipulate the organ systems, sensory systems, muscles, and nerves in order to test their contractile, electrical, and receptive properties. You can't obtain the same understanding of tissue properties (how hard, elastic, compliant, fragile/hardy, etc.) they are unless you handle them yourselves.

WHAT? Cane toads, crayfish, and lobsters. None of these are endangered (in fact, toads are quite an invasive species).

HOW? We will ensure that the animals are handled humanely. They will be held in appropriate containers, without excessive stress (heat or other stimuli). The TAs will destroy CNS function in the toads by double-pithing, so that they will not have the ability to feel pain, but the physiological responses will remain intact. *We treat research animals with respect and sensitivity.*

CAN'T MY LAB PARTNER DO IT? No, because (1) it is not fair to yourself, it is part of your learning experience and (2) it is not fair to your partners to have to do all of the work.

MINIMUM NUMBER? We will obtain only the numbers of animals necessary, plus a few extra for demonstrations. However, we will NOT return unused animals to the wild. This would be a conservation nightmare – released, previously captive animals have been responsible for spreading disease vectors which have harmed natural populations.

Please certify that you have read and agree to participating in the necessary dissections involved in the animal experiments:

Signature

Print Name

Date

IF YOU BELIEVE THAT YOU WILL BE UNABLE TO PERFORM ANIMAL DISSECTIONS,
PLEASE COME TO SEE ME AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.