

RAT DISSECTION

Aim

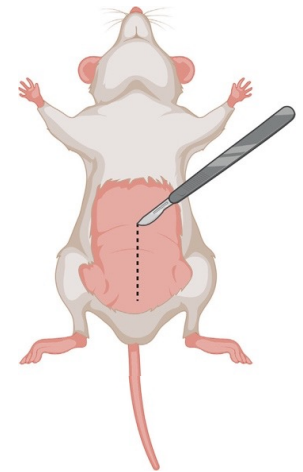
To observe the external and internal anatomy of a rat and understand how the organ systems function

Method

Animal dissections are optional and participation is not required (a virtual investigation can be done)

Physical Dissection:

1. Place rat on top of a cutting board with disposable paper underneath.
2. Use string attached to pins to secure rat in a spreadeagled position.
3. Use a scalpel to make an incision at the centre bottom of rat (belly).
4. Use scissors to cut vertically along the midline and peel back skin.
5. After observing the abdominal contents, continue to cut through ribs.
6. Remove the lungs, heart and digestive system for further observation.
7. Behind the digestive system should be kidneys and uterus (female).
8. Arrange the organs around the rat for further study and inspection.
9. When done, fold the paper around rat and transfer to garbage bag.



Virtual Dissection:

1. Rat dissection video by Silvergrass Institute: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ITMicfnBpkg>
2. Use the link below to access a virtual rat dissection: https://cyber.gale.com/cyber/ISSCI/activities/143?u=mlin_s_masscomm&p=ISSCI&gcid=81ec03b8f5d0d82c69c29e89af2e0a8c&id=patriot

Discussion

1. Identify the ethical issues that must be considered when undertaking animal dissections

2. Discuss the appropriateness of performing animal dissections in high school science classes