



Bovine eyeball dissection

Dear Sir,

The notes from the Department for Education to all Chief Education Officers on the dissection of cows' eyes seem to have been received without comment.

Whilst I accept the expert advice on remote theoretical risk, and consequently will avoid work on bovine eyes until bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) has been eradicated, I question the limited alternative suggested.

It is possible and is indeed the practice in many schools, to dissect sheep's eyes without risk. Such experience can still be offered to pupils, as could the dissection of pigs' eyes in schools where religious and cultural grounds deemed this appropriate.

Combining such first-hand experience with the use of anatomical models can give an enhanced knowledge and understanding of the structure and function of the eye compared with that obtained solely through the use of models.

Yours faithfully,

Roger Lock

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