

Company supplies stillborn piglets for teacher dissections

19th Aug 2013 10:27 AM



Riverside Christian College head of science Deb White with Dissection Connection owner-manager Deb Cook at a workshop for teachers.

Contributed

FRASER Coast science teachers are turning to a nearby biological supply company for animal specimens, including stillborn piglets, for dissections and further training.

Gympie business Dissection Connection is helping teachers across Australia provide valuable hands-on education in anatomy for students by supplying specimens treated ethically.

Owner manager Deb Cook said Dissection Connection supplied a broad range of specimens for scientific purposes and was the only biological specimen supplier in the country to provide teachers with stillborn piglets for dissections.

"Confronting I know, but pigs are mammals, like humans, and nearly all major structures are similar in anatomy," she said.

"While there are differences, the most important things are very similar.

"If a sow has a large litter, they usually produce stillborn piglets. They are not bred for the purpose of dissection.

"They are a by-product of the pork food industry and if not used for education will be used for fertilizer or dumped.

"The smell is reduced in a piglet as there are no faeces, and there are no contaminants which take dissections to the next level for example, the large intestine can be fully examined from end to end without spreading bacteria around the classroom."

Deb has been teaching teachers how to dissect interesting body parts and recently held workshops by demand in Fraser Coast and North Burnett.

About a dozen teachers attended each workshop and spent their own time learning from Deb how to dissect a bovine uterus and ovaries to find the egg.

Deb said teachers found another level of enthusiasm and were excited about passing on the knowledge to their students.

For more information, visit www.dissectionconnection.com.au.