

Animal Bites: A Bite Victims Guide:



Procedure for Animal Bites

1. Immediately wash the wound thoroughly with soap and water for 10-15 minutes. Do not scrub, as this may bruise the tissue.
2. If the wound is bleeding, apply pressure with a sterile gauze or clean cloth.
3. Keep area covered with a sterile gauze or a bandage.
4. Seek medical care if:
 - a. You are bitten by a wild animal or animal that has not had its rabies vaccination.
 - b. The bite punctured or broke your skin.
 - c. You were bitten on the face neck, hand, foot, or near a joint.
 - d. The site of the bite later becomes red, hot, swollen, or increasingly painful.
5. Contact the county dispatch in the county the bite occurred, as soon as possible after the bite. (If the medical facility has not already done this.)
6. If it is safe to do so, attempt to secure the animal until help arrives.
7. An animal quarantine will be issued to the owner of the animal who bit the victim. If the animal is wild and can be caught it can be euthanized and sent into the State Lab of Hygiene to be tested.
8. Expect a phone call from someone at the local health department to contact you and follow up on the animal bite. They will keep you informed on the animal's health status throughout the 10 day quarantine period.