

ANIMAL BITES: A Guide for Bite Victims



RESOURCE

Wood County Health Dept.
Environmental Health
(715) 421-8911

TO REPORT A BITE:

Call the county where the bite occurred.

Wood County Dispatch
(715) 421-8702

Marathon County Dispatch
(715) 261-1200

Clark County Dispatch
(715) 743-3157

Portage County Dispatch
(715) 346-1500

**Ho-Chunk Nation
Division of Health**
(Call them for bites that occur on Tribal land)
(715) 284-9851 X 5011
(715) 284-9851 X 5062
(715) 284-9851 X 5059

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 sterile gauze or a clean cloth.
3. Cover the area with sterile gauze or a bandage.
4. Seek medical care if:
 - a. You were bitten by a wild or stray animal or an animal that has not had its rabies vaccine.
 - 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.
6. If safe to do so, attempt to secure the animal until help arrives.
7. Humane officers will then conduct an investigation and complete a Rabies Control Report.
8. An animal quarantine will be issued to the owner of the dog, cat, or ferret who bit the victim. If the animal bite was from a wild animal, the humane officer will try to find the animal, euthanize it, and submit it for testing. Animals other than dogs, cats or ferrets are not quarantined.
9. Pets that are quarantined will be examined by a veterinarian 3 times in a 10 day period beginning as soon as possible after the bite.
10. If the animal is not exhibiting signs of rabies, the veterinarian will sign off on the Rabies Control Report, stating they observed no signs of rabies, as of the final exam.
11. If the animal was tested, the State Lab of Hygiene will contact the medical provider, veterinarian and health department with the lab results.
12. It is the animal submitter's responsibility to contact the patient with the lab results of the rabies test.