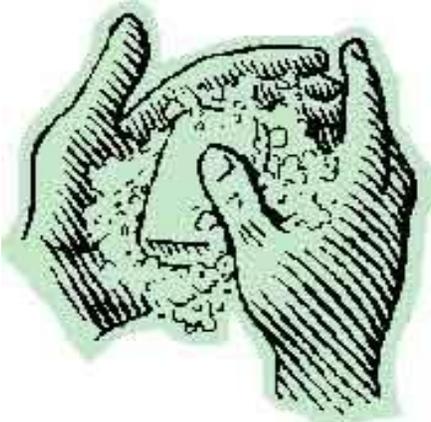


Bite Wound Treatment



Wash the bite site completely with soap and warm water. Scrub with soap and let the water run over it for several minutes, this will remove some pathogens.

Antiseptic solutions and antibiotic ointments can also be used along with a bandage. If the wound is severe, shows signs of infection or if you are immunocompromised seek medical advice at once.

Your doctor may prescribe antibiotics, tetanus booster or anti-rabies treatment.

Be Informed

Seek medical advice with your doctor or the Frederick Memorial Hospital ER for:

- ♦Severe Wounds
- ♦Infected Bites
- ♦Anti-Rabies Treatment

**FMH: ER Contact
Phone: 240-566-3500**

**Frederick County Animal Control
Phone: 301-600-1544**

**Bites in Frederick County should be reported to Animal Control

**Frederick County Health Department
Phone: 301-600-3378**

**Source for human rabies post-exposure evaluation

Phone: 301-600-1715

**Tests animals for rabies virus

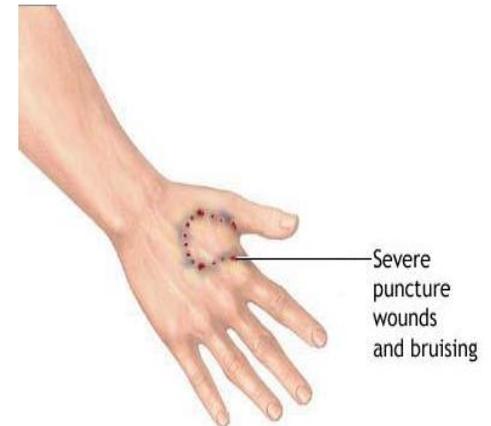
**Pet exposure evaluation

Updated March 2013

Animal Bites

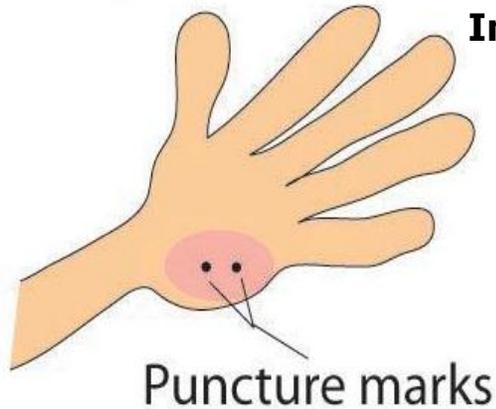
Possible complications associated with animal bites:

Rabies & Infections



What You Should Know About Animal Bites

Information about Rabies and Infections



Bat bites are small holes about a centimeter apart.

Rabies

Rabies is a virus that attacks the nervous system of mammals. The virus is transmitted through saliva and enters the body through open wounds, skin breaks or mucous membranes.

Rabies is almost always fatal unless the patient receives prompt anti-rabies treatment.

Animals with rabies can present with a wide range of symptoms; from aggression to disorientation.

To prevent rabies:

- ◆Keep pets vaccinated
- ◆Keep away from wildlife and strays
- ◆Avoid bare handed contact with animals if they have been in a fight with another animal

Animal Bites

There are many concerns that arise after an animal bite:

- ◆Damage to tissue (skin, muscles and tendons)
- ◆Rabies
- ◆Infections (cause by a bacteria, viruses, or fungi)

Dogs have at least 64 species of bacteria in their mouths.

The cat's sharp teeth cause infections to develop faster than with dog bites.

Infections

- ◆*Pasteurellosis* – normally carried in healthy dogs and cats. First signs are reddening and swelling



Redness, swelling and warmth at the bite site 8 - 24 hours after the bite could be a sign of infection.

seen in 2 – 12 hours and quickly spreads towards the body from the bite site.

- ◆*Streptococcal* and *Staphylococcal* – similar to *Pasteurella* with redness and pain moving from bite site to the rest of the body.

- ◆Tetanus – a deadly infection that presents with bite site pain, headache and muscle spasms.

- ◆Sepsis- known as septicemia or blood poisoning can be caused by several bacteria. Symptoms are chills, fever and exhaustion or collapse.

- ◆Other serious infections can lead to meningitis, a brain abscess or heart infection.

◆An adult dog can exert 200 pounds per square inch (psi) of pressure when biting. This amount of pressure can cause damage to bones, tendons, muscles and nerves.

◆The sharp teeth of cats normally puncture and rip the skin which introduces bacteria deep into the wound.

◆Bat bites may present as two tiny puncture wounds, a scratch, or non visible wounds.