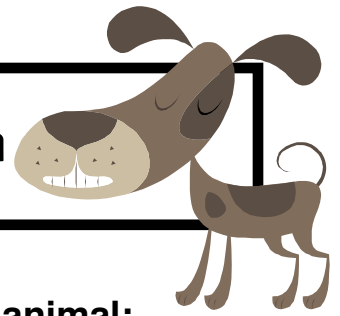


ANIMAL BITES: What to do if you are bitten



RESOURCE

**Lincoln County Health
Department**
607 N. Sales St, Suite 101
Merrill, WI 54452
715-536-0307

TO REPORT A BITE:

Call the county where the bite occurred.

Lincoln County Dispatch
(715) 536-6272

Merrill City Police
(715) 536-8311

Tomahawk City Police
(715) 453-2121

Source: WI Division of Public Health,
www.KidsHealth.org (1/09).

Steps to take if you are bitten by an animal you do not know or a wild animal:

1. Immediately wash the bite thoroughly with soap and water for 10-15 minutes. Do not scrub, 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.
 - e. IF you cannot find the animal, rabies treatment will be necessary.
5. Contact law enforcement in the area (city or county) the bite occurred as soon as possible after the bite.
6. If safe to do so, try to capture the animal until help arrives. Wear gloves when touching animal – dead or alive. Law enforcement or local health department will then conduct an investigation and complete a Rabies Control Report.
7. 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.
8. 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.
9. If the animal is not showing 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.
10. If the animal was tested, the State Lab of Hygiene will contact the medical provider, veterinarian and health department with the lab results.
11. It is the responsibility of the person who submitted the animal to contact the patient with the lab results of the rabies test.