



 Please call 911 if you think you have a medical emergency.

## A n i m a l B i t e s T r e a t m e n t

The treatment of animal bites, after initial inspection, irrigation, debridement, and possibly closure depends on the doctor's experience, preference, and the type of wound and location of the wound.

### S e l f - C a r e a t H o m e

Thoroughly clean the wound by washing with soap and tap water as soon as possible. A light scrubbing should occur during the wash. Then put a clean and dry bandage over the area. This treatment should not replace proper evaluation by a doctor.

### M e d i c a l T r e a t m e n t

Depending on the status of the bite wound, local wound care varies.

If the wound was sutured on the first visit, then the wound should be kept clean and dry. Showers are permitted, but the area should be dried by patting it softly to avoid disrupting the sutures.

If the wound was left open, then the doctor may recommend daily soaks or other treatments.

Depending on the bite, antibiotics may be given. A tetanus booster is also important. If there is any question of rabies, further treatment and examination of the animal is warranted.

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For more information, read the complete article, Animal Bites

(<http://www.emedicinehealth.com/script/main/art.asp?articlekey=59192>) on <http://www.emedicinehealth.com>.

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*This information is not intended to replace the advice of a doctor.*

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