



## Animal and Human Bites

Human and animal bites can lead to wound infection. This type of infection is caused by the many organisms found in animal or human saliva.

### How to Care for Yourself at Home

- + Keep the wound clean. Wash the wound with soap and fast running water.
- + To watch for signs of infection, most wounds (except to the face and neck) are left open and not stitched (sutured). They may be closed at a later date.
- + You may or may not have antibiotics prescribed to you.
- + You will be given a Tetanus shot if necessary.
- + Anti-rabies treatment is rarely given for animal bites, but depends on each case.
- + For human bites, anti-rabies treatment is not necessary.
- + If the bite is covered with a bandage change the bandage when wet or dirty.
- + Over the counter pain medication such as acetaminophen (Tylenol) or ibuprofen (Advil or Motrin) can be taken for pain or discomfort.

### When to Get Help

- **Go to the nearest Emergency Department or Urgent Care if:**
  - + Fever
  - + Swelling
  - + Pain
  - + Yellow/green drainage of fluid from the wound
  - + Redness surrounding the wound
  - + Foul smell from wound

### TO LEARN MORE ASK

- + Your family doctor.
- + HealthLinkBC - call 8-1-1 (7-1-1 for deaf or hard of hearing) or go online to [www.HealthLinkBC.ca](http://www.HealthLinkBC.ca)

### RECOMMENDED FOLLOW UP

- 🕒 Follow up with your primary care provider in \_\_\_ days.

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[https://emergencycarebc.ca/clinical\\_resource/animal-and-human-bites/](https://emergencycarebc.ca/clinical_resource/animal-and-human-bites/)