

Name of Child: _____ Date: _____

Bites and Claw Scratches:

Human or Animal

What is it?

A bite is a torn, open area of the skin caused by the teeth of a human or any animal. Deep scratches made by animal claws are treated like bites, because claws often have saliva on them.

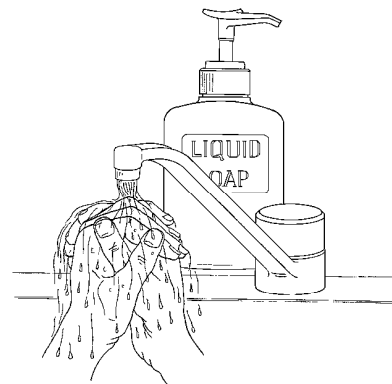
Signs:

- A break or hole in the skin.
- Bleeding and pain from the bite.
- Tissue is crushed or a bone is broken by the bite.

Do at home:

Wound Care

1. Rinse the wound well with water. Let tap water run over the wound for one or two minutes.
2. Clean the bite well with antibacterial soap (like Dial) and running water. Scrub for 10 minutes using a clean washcloth. While you wash, it may bleed a little more.
3. Stop the bleeding by pressing a clean cloth on the wound for five to 10 minutes. Then call the doctor or clinic.



**Clean the bite well
with antibacterial soap
and running water.**

4. Put a topical antibiotic ointment (like Neosporin) on the wound, and cover it with a clean bandage.
5. Change the bandage every day. When the bandage is off, look for signs of infection:
 - redness
 - pus or wound smells bad
 - fever over 101° F
 - swelling
 - more pain
 - red streak on arm or leg

If you see any of these signs, call your doctor or clinic.

If only the top of the skin is scraped or scratched:

1. Wash the scrape for 5 minutes with antibacterial soap (like Dial) and running water.
2. Cover the scrape with a bandage.
3. On the next day, take the bandage off and leave the wound uncovered.

Report the Bite

Laws in many states say you must report all animal bites to the County Animal Control Department. For Maricopa County in Arizona, call 602-506-7387.

If possible and safe for you, keep the animal from running away. Keep it in a yard or fenced-in spot. If you can't catch the animal safely, don't worry about it. Then call 602-506-7387. The person who answers the phone will want to know:

- where the animal is now
- what the animal looks like
 - what kind of animal it is
 - the size
 - the color
 - anything that can help you tell this animal apart from others, such as unusual marks or color of collar
 - if the animal looks sick
- if the animal was wearing tags or a collar
- if you know the animal and where it lives
- why you think the animal bit



Call the doctor or clinic if:

- The bite breaks the skin or the bone. The doctor will decide:
 - Does the bite need stitches?
 - Does your child need to take medicine so he or she does not get an infection?
 - Does your child need a tetanus booster shot? Has your child had a tetanus shot within the last 5 years?
 - What wound care is needed now? How should you treat the wound until it heals?
 - Does your child need a rabies shot? The doctor will talk to the State Health Department or the Animal Control staff to decide if your child is at risk of getting rabies from the bite.

- Your child has any of these signs of infection:
 - the wound
 - becomes redder
 - swells up
 - smells bad or has pus
 - is more painful after 2 days
 - your child has
 - fever over 101° F.
 - swollen glands

If you see any of these signs, call your doctor or clinic.

You should know:

- If a toddler bites, but doesn't break the skin, you don't have to call the doctor.
- Any animal or human bite can become infected. The most likely to become infected are bites by humans or cats, and bites on the hands.
- The animal that bit your child should be watched by the Animal Control Center for two weeks. This is very important if the animal
 - acts sick
 - bit for no reason
 - acts strange, or
 - if you know the animal has not had rabies shots.

When you call the Animal Control Center about the bite, they will pick up the animal to watch it.

- Rabies can kill people. The animals that are at greatest risk for rabies are:
 - bats
 - raccoons
 - foxes
 - coyotes
 - skunks
 - other large animals
 - cats and dogs who did not have their rabies shots

Smaller animals that don't usually carry rabies may carry other diseases, like hantavirus or plague:

- mice
 - rats
 - gopher
 - moles
 - chipmunks
 - prairie dogs
 - rabbits
- Always watch children under 4 years old around dogs. Any dog can bite.
 - Teach your child not to go up to a stray or wild animal.
 - Teach your child not to break up a dogfight.
 - Teach your child not to bother an animal when it is sleeping or eating.



If you have any questions or concerns,
 call your child's doctor or call _____

If you want to know more about child health and illness,
visit our library at The Emily Center at Phoenix Children's Hospital
1919 East Thomas Road
Phoenix, AZ 85016
602-546-1400
www.phoenixchildrenshospital.com

Disclaimer

The information provided at this site is intended to be general information, and is provided for educational purposes only. It is not intended to take the place of examination, treatment, or consultation with a physician. Phoenix Children's Hospital urges you to contact your physician with any questions you may have about a medical condition.

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Bites and Claw Scratches: Human or Animal

First Aid and Home Care
Si usted desea esta información en español,
por favor pídasela a su enfermero o doctor.

Name of Health Care Provider: _____ Number: 634
For office use: Date returned: _____ db nb

Family Review of Handout

Health care providers: Please teach families with this handout.
Families: Please let us know what you think of this handout.

Would you say this handout is hard to read? Yes No

easy to read? Yes No

Please circle the parts of the handout that were hard to understand.

Would you say this handout is interesting to read? Yes No

Why or why not?

Would you do anything differently after reading
this handout? Yes No

If yes, what?

After reading this handout, do you have any
questions about the subject? Yes No
If yes, what?

Is there anything you don't like about the drawings?

Yes

No

If yes, what?

What changes would you make in this handout to make it better or easier to understand?

Please return your review of this handout to your nurse or doctor or send it to the address below.

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Thank you for helping us!