

# Bites from animals

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## The most common animal bites

Children are sometimes bitten by their own or their friends' pets.

Any animals that have claws or teeth will use them to defend themselves when they are frightened. Animals have rights too and need to be treated with respect and care by humans.

It is wise not to touch an animal that is eating or sleeping.

Children have to learn how to behave towards animals.

Animals need to be trained in how to behave towards humans.

Even a small creature like a mouse can nip a finger.



## How to deal with animal bites

- Wash the area very carefully with water and antiseptic, or soap.
- Use ice to keep the swelling down.
- Apply an antiseptic. Your pharmacist will be able tell you what to use if you don't have any at home.
- Cover with a clean dressing or plaster, but take the plaster off every day to make sure the bitten place is healing well.
- Look for signs of an infection, (ie. redness, swelling, pain, tenderness and the infected part often feels hot to touch).
- Have mum, dad or a trusted adult check out the bite. If there is infection, you need to see a doctor.
- You may need to see a doctor in case you need stitches.
- Check if you need an anti-tetanus shot.



## Humans are animals too!

Sometimes you may have an accident where a friend's tooth makes a hole in your skin!

You may have a younger brother or sister who is going through a biting people phase! You might accidentally hit someone in the face while playing sport and his/her teeth could break your skin. Follow all the first aid hints and see a doctor if the bite gets red and swollen.



### Important

Animal bites and human bites can easily get infected. It is really important to keep them clean and to see a doctor quickly if there are signs of an infection.

## Dr Kate says:

"Never touch any animal that you don't know (even if it looks really cute) unless the owner is there and says that it is OK for you to touch it.

It is not a good idea to pick up or pet wild animals in the bush even if they look really cute and friendly. If they get scared they will try to defend themselves and you could be hurt.

If you see a snake, back away slowly, don't try to pick it up or kill it.



Some advice from Rachel

"Treat your pets very well or maybe they will bite or scratch.

**Back away** from strange dogs or cats."

"Never go into a yard or house where there is a dog unless the owner is with you. Even the friendliest dogs know their job is to protect their family and property." **Gabriel**

Beware of the kitty

When cats wag their tails it means they're getting angry.

If you don't stop touching them they sometimes hiss.

If you're not careful they scratch or bite you.