



STEPS FOR WHEN SOMEONE HAS BEEN BITTEN BY A DOG:

1. Immediately wash and flush the wound with soap and plenty water for at least 15 minutes.



2. Clean the wound with ethanol or aqueous solution of iodine or povidone.

- **DO NOT** stitch the wound unless it is necessary due to large wounds. Then, the stitches should be loose and allow free bleeding and drainage.
- Tell the patient the reasons why you are not stitching the wound or why you are stitching it loosely so that they will understand.



3. If the patient has not been vaccinated for tetanus, DPT should be given.



4. Ask the patient questions to complete the animal bite case investigation form.



5. Refer the patient for post-exposure rabies vaccine:

- Refer the patient to the district health management team (DHMT).
- Remind the patient that they must receive all of the doses of the vaccine to be protected from rabies.
- Tell the patient to carry money with them when they go for the vaccine.

6. Talk with the patient about the risks of dog bites and rabies and how to prevent future bites. (See messages on the right.)



7. Report the bite through the weekly Integrated Diseases Surveillance and Response (IDSR) report.

- Send the animal bite case investigation form with the IDSR report.



8. If there is a community animal health worker in your community, notify them of the bite and share any available information about the dog.

MESSAGES ON RABIES, DOG BITE PREVENTION, AND DOG BITE CARE:

Rabies is a very serious sickness that both animals and people can get.

Rabies is spread through the spit of an animal with rabies, usually when that animal bites another animal or person.

Any bite from an animal with rabies that makes a wound, even if it's small, means rabies can enter the body.

Almost everyone who gets rabies gets it from the bite of a dog that has rabies.

Stopping dog bites helps stop rabies.

To help stop dog bites:

- **Do not disturb dogs**, especially when they are sleeping, eating, or with their young.
 - Dogs might bite when they are surprised, afraid, or are trying to protect something like their food or their young.
- **Take your time** when passing or entering where a dog lives.
 - Many people keep dogs for security. Taking your time when passing or entering where a dog lives can help a dog know you are not a threat.
- **Stay away** from any dog that is acting strange or looks sick and call an animal health worker, community health worker, or 117 for advice.
 - A dog that is acting strange or looks sick might have rabies or some other sickness that makes it feel sick and more likely to bite if you go near it.



If bitten by a dog:

- **Wash the bite** right away with soap and water 20 times for at least 15 minutes. Then, go quickly to the hospital.

IF A PATIENT SHOWS SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF RABIES:

Clinical Case Definition:

a person presenting with an acute neurological syndrome (encephalitis) dominated by forms of hyperactivity (furious rabies) or paralytic syndromes (dumb rabies) progressing towards coma and death, usually by respiratory failure, within 7-10 days after the first symptom if no intensive care is instituted.

- Rabies is fatal. There is no treatment once rabies develops. Refer the patient to the district hospital for end-of-life treatment.
- End-of-life treatment of rabies patients should focus on reducing pain and anxiety and keeping the patient as comfortable as possible.
- Health workers and caregivers should exercise good hygiene, wash hands frequently, use personal protective equipment, and avoid all contact with the patient's saliva.



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

**Breakthrough
ACTION**
FOR SOCIAL & BEHAVIOR CHANGE

