

Patient Education: Animal Bites

- Keep any wound dressings in place for 24 hours.
- Keep the wound clean with plain soap and warm water.
- Elevate the extremity and apply ice to the wound area to help reduce pain and swelling at or around the wound.
- You may experience pain at the wound site and may take an oral analgesic (such as acetaminophen or ibuprofen) as directed by your health care provider.

You may take:

- Acetaminophen ___ mg to ___ mg every ___ to ___ hours for ___ day(s) as needed
- Ibuprofen ___ mg to ___ mg every ___ to ___ hours for ___ day(s) as needed
- You **did/did not** (circle one) receive a “booster shot” of the tetanus vaccine today. This is given if it has been more than 10 years since you last had a tetanus shot, or you do not remember when your last tetanus shot was.
- Antibiotic treatment is not always required following an animal bite. Your health care provider will inform you if antibiotic treatment is required.
- If you experience symptoms of infection such as fever, increasing or spreading redness (ex: streaking) and warmth, increased pain, increasing swelling, or oozing pus from the wound, return to the clinic or seek care from another health care provider.
- This incident was reported to the Medical Health Officer so that observation or examination of the animal for rabies can be done as needed. It is important that you do not shoot or harm the animal so this can process can occur.
- Do not pet or feed strange or wild animals to prevent animal bites in the future.

