

What are some things
that can be done to
prevent animal bites?

- ◆ Supervise young children around all animals, even pets.
- ◆ Teach children not to approach animals without permission.
- ◆ Teach children never to tease animals.
- ◆ Vaccinate your pets.
- ◆ Avoid contact with animals you do not know, whether domestic or wild.
- ◆ Be especially cautious and avoid animals that are sick or acting strangely.
- ◆ Do not try to separate animals that are fighting.
- ◆ Do not disturb pets when they are eating or sleeping.
- ◆ Do not keep wild animals as pets



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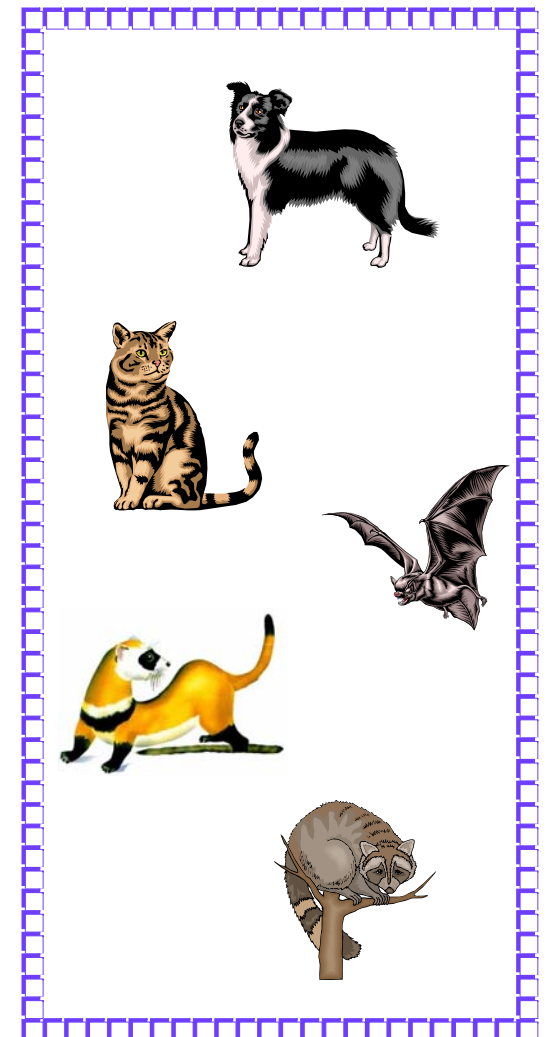
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"Animal Bite Brochure".

Animal Bites





Animal Bites

What constitutes an animal bite?

- ◆ Any penetration of the skin can be considered to be an animal "bite" exposure. This includes scratches as well as punctures.
- ◆ All bites pose a potential risk for serious infection and for rabies transmission. This includes both domestic animals (pets or strays) and wild animals.
- ◆ In addition, exposure of mucous membranes (eyes, nose, mouth) to body fluids of bats or any animal that is showing signs of illness may pose a risk of transmitting rabies.

What should be done if an animal bite or wound occurs?

- ◆ Thoroughly wash the bite wound or scratch with lots of soap and water.
- ◆ Seek medical advice from your health care provider or public health department as soon as possible for:
 - * Wound care
 - * Possible need for tetanus booster
 - * Possible need for rabies vaccination
- ◆ Report the bite to your local law enforcement agency. In Ozaukee County, the Police department or Sheriff's department has the authority for animal control. They will determine appropriate follow-up actions.

What is the risk of rabies?

- ◆ Rabies is a deadly disease that is caused by a virus, and is spread through the saliva of an infected animal. Rabies can be transmitted when the saliva gets into wounds, scratches, or mucous membranes. Domestic animals and pets can carry rabies, although most cases occur in wild animals such as bats, skunks, and raccoons.

What should be done with the animal that has bitten?

- ◆ For pets or domestic animals, obtain the owner's name, address, phone number, and any other pertinent information.
- ◆ For stray or wild animals, it is helpful if the animal can be tested. If it can be contained without additional risk of exposure, keep it for the authorities. **HOWEVER, USE CAUTION!**