



# BITES (ANIMAL OR HUMAN)

Bite on the skin by an animal or human being

## CAUSES

### ANIMAL BITE

If the wound on the skin is superficial, animal bites can be treated the same way as a cut. However, animal bites are potentially dangerous because of the threat of rabies infection. Rabies is a serious viral disease that attacks the central nervous system, which could be fatal if left unchecked. In these cases, emergency help must be sought even if the animal does not display signs of rabies like foaming at the mouth.

#### Symptoms:

- Bite wound
- Bleeding

#### DO:

- Rinse the wound with cold running water and soap (or a saline solution).
- Seek help if the bite has broken the skin, if there is excessive bleeding, and if the bite is from a potentially rabid or wild animal.

### HUMAN BITE

If the wound caused by human teeth is superficial, it can be treated much the same way as one would treat a cut. Bites from human beings may also be vulnerable to infection.

#### Symptoms:

- Bite wound
- Bleeding

#### DO:

- Rinse the wound with cold running water and soap (or a saline solution).
- Seek help if the bite has broken the skin.



As a preventive measure, make sure that your pets, especially dogs, get regular vaccination against rabies.

# BLEEDING

Blood flow from a wound, cut or minor injury

### INJURY

See page 27.

### NOSEBLEED

Nosebleeds occur when the blood vessels in the nose become fragile. Bleeding is triggered either by blowing the nose too hard, or being injured in the nose. Persistent nosebleeds may be a sign of high blood pressure or weakened blood vessels.

#### Symptoms:

- Blood flowing from the nostrils

#### DO:

- Pinch your nose just above the nostrils. Hold it shut for 10 seconds, breathing through your mouth, bending slightly forward.
- If a blow to the nose caused the nosebleed, apply an ice pack for 30 minutes.

#### DON'T:

- Don't tilt your head back if your nose is bleeding. This may cause the blood to flow to your throat.