

# When you are the victim of an animal

# BITE



## What to do if you are bitten.

- Immediately wash the bite with soap and water for 10-15 minutes.
- Seek medical care or contact your doctor.
- Notify local law enforcement and your local health department.

After a bite occurs, get as much information as you can, including:  
Owners name, phone number, address, and the animal's vaccination status.  
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Confine or capture a wild animal or stray, if it can be done safely, so it can be assessed for signs of rabies.



## Why does the animal need to be quarantined?

- The 10 day quarantine period is used to monitor the animal for signs of rabies.
- If there are no signs of rabies in the animal, the person who was bitten can avoid getting the rabies vaccination series.



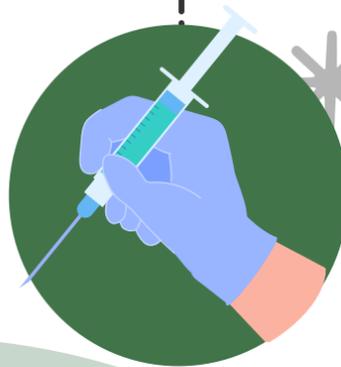
## What happens to the animal that bit me?

- The animal owner will be contacted by law enforcement and public health with instructions for quarantine.
- Quarantine for rabies prevention is required by Wisconsin state law and Douglas County ordinance.



## What happens during and after quarantine?

- The biting animal will be assessed by a vet three times during quarantine for signs of rabies.
- If no signs are noted by the end of quarantine, the animal did not transmit rabies to you.
- Vet costs are the pet owner's responsibility.



Public Health communicates with the victim and the animal owner.

## Why would I need the vaccine?

- If the animal cannot be located (a stray) or shows signs of rabies while quarantined, you will need the vaccine to prevent the disease.
- There is no specific treatment for rabies, the only "treatment" is the administration of the vaccine **before** symptoms appear.
- **Once symptoms appear, rabies is nearly always fatal.**

For more information, please visit:  
<https://www.douglascountywi.org/911/RabiesAnimal-Bite>



Or contact us:  
Douglas County  
Health Department  
715-395-1304

