

ANIMAL BITE PROTOCOL

Animal bites must be reported to the Animal Control Officer on duty immediately. This transfer of information should occur at every point along the path to the shelter.

Cage/crate should be clearly tagged and information placed in the animal's paperwork as soon as the incident is noted or suspected:

1. "This cage/crate contains an animal that has been involved in a bite."
2. Note date and time of the bite.
3. Personal identification of the human bitten should be clearly noted.
 - a. Determine the rabies vaccination status of the person who has been bitten.
4. Identify any person who observed the bite.
5. Note owner of the animal clearly and detail the time/date notification to the owner in the animal's paperwork.
6. Note any special circumstances associated with bite.

Highlight the vaccination status of the animal. If there is no vaccine history, the animal should NOT be vaccinated until after the 10 day observation period. Any illness noted in the animal during 10 days must be reported to the parish health unit. Any stray, unwanted dog, cat or ferret that bites a person may be euthanized immediately and the head submitted for rabies and examination.

Direct the person bitten to a first aid facility: student health center on campus or their choice of physician. (Inform the physician that you were bitten in an environment where *Clostridium tetani* prevalence might be unusually high - horse arena and barns).

The cage/crate and animal should be placed in an isolation area designated at the shelter.

The animal must remain under observation for 10 full days (as determined by animal control). Other options, such as euthanasia or release to owner, must be pursued in a proper manner. All options are outlined in the Sanitary Code provided by the state public health veterinarian.

Unvaccinated animals will be handled according to the protocol of the receiving parish animal control in consultation with the state public health veterinarian.