

First aid for bite wounds

Overview

- Always have your pet checked by your vet if they have been bitten or attacked.
- Bite wounds very often get infected because mouths are so full of bacteria. They also tend to be more serious than they look because of hidden damage below the skin.
- Snakebites are especially dangerous and should be treated ASAP.

What to do if your pet has been bitten



Step one: Assess your pet

- Do they seem otherwise ok? Do they have any other injuries? Are they in shock?
- If you are worried about your pet, cover their wounds, keep them warm and take them straight to your vets.

Step two: Assess the bite wound

- **Small and not bleeding** - move to step three.

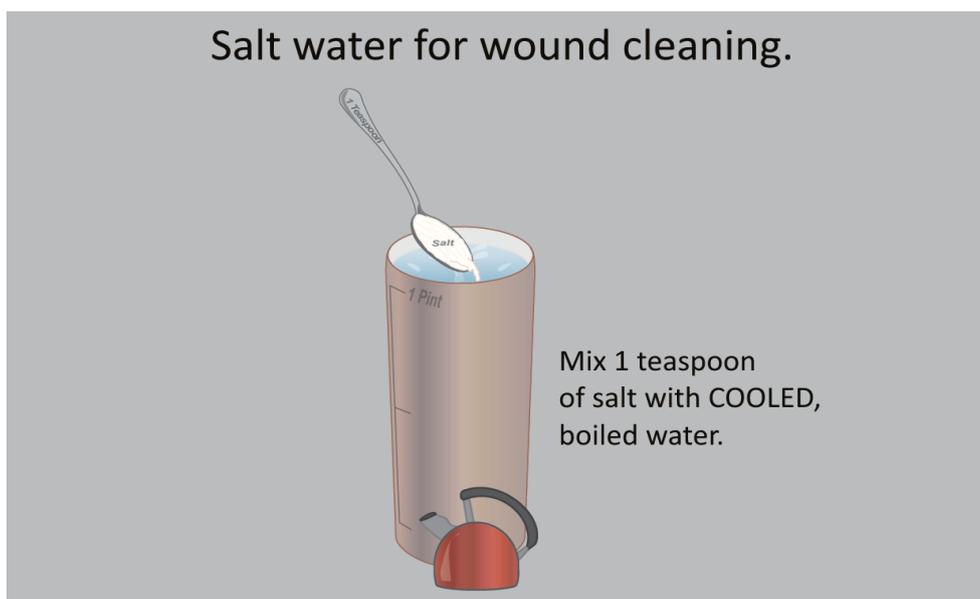
- **Bleeding heavily** - apply pressure with a dry, clean dressing and go straight to your vets.
- **Areas of skin missing** - cover the wound with a clean, dry dressing and go straight to your vets. If your pet seems painful when you try to cover the wound or you don't have a dressing available then don't try to cover the area as you may cause more damage.
- **Snakebite** - put an ice pack (wrapped in a towel) on the bite, and take your pet straight to the nearest vets.

Step three: Flush the wound

- If your dog has a small bite wound that isn't bleeding heavily, flush it with lukewarm, salty water* to remove as much bacteria as possible. Rinse for as long as your dog will tolerate.
- **Make salt water by adding 1 teaspoon of salt to a pint of cooled (previously boiled) water, see image below.*

Step four: Book an appointment with your vet

- Bite wounds should always be checked by a vet because they are often more serious than they look, and are likely to get infected.



Published: March 2020