

# Dog Foster (DF) BITE PROTOCOL

Please follow this protocol if your foster dog bites you, a member of your household, or anyone else. Note: Dog to dog bites and any injuries caused to another animal should also be reported to the Shelter Director.



## If a bite occurs:

1. Immediately remove the foster dog to a safe environment, i.e., a crate or other option that both prevents further injury to the person and provides a calm environment for the dog.
2. Report the incident immediately to the Shelter Director (mari@friendsofstrays.org), 727-522-6566 ext 105. Your email should include a detailed description of the incident and photos of any injuries
3. Friends of Strays will determine the dog's future placement and any needed behavior modification or training.

## If the bite resulted in an injury follow these additional steps:

1. With the person injured, assess the need for medical care. (See guidelines below.)
2. Friends of Strays will verify the status of the dog's rabies vaccination and provide the foster with the date of the most recent vaccine and provide proof, as needed.
3. If the bite broke the skin (deep scratch, puncture wound, bleeding), it may be necessary to quarantine the foster dog for 10 days. This can usually be done in the foster home or, in some cases, may require a dog to serve the quarantine at the Friends of Strays. If the dog that bit is given a clean bill of health after 10 days, it could not have passed on the rabies virus at the time of the bite.

## Bite Assessment/Wound Care:

Immediately rinse the bite wound(s) with Betadine solution. If that is not available, rinse the wound in running water for 5 minutes and do not use soap. We recommend that people seek medical care after any bite. However, if the person is undecided if medical attention is needed, here are some guidelines:

- Did the bite break the skin?

If no, no further action is required.

- If yes, see below depending on the type of wound:

**Scratches:** Watch for signs of possible infection - swelling, redness, abnormal discharge. If any of those symptoms occur, seek medical attention.

**Punctures:** The person bitten may need oral antibiotics. Please seek medical attention IMMEDIATELY to prevent sepsis, loss of function, or even death.

**Bleeding:** Apply pressure directly to the wound to try to stop the bleeding. If the bleeding is severe call 911.

Bites are a very dangerous issue and must be reported immediately per the instructions above. Reporting is especially important for a bite involving an unvaccinated dog. In addition, reporting a bite and the circumstances surrounding a bite enables our team to develop a better customized plan for your foster dog.

Appropriate medical treatment is also crucial. An infected bite can cost thousands of dollars if not treated immediately and, as stated above, can cause sepsis, loss of function, or even death.

Friends of Strays IS NOT liable for any damages relating to a bite or responsible for any medical bill or other cost associated with a bite (including any injury to another animal). However, we can often provide suggestions on what to do after a bite occurs. If you choose not to seek medical help, Friends of Strays IS NOT liable for any resulting consequences.