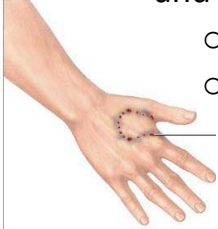


Bite, Animal

What is it?

- **Animal Bites** – when an animal bites a person, bacteria can enter the wound and start an infection
- **Bacteria**- over 130 disease causing microbes have been isolated from cat and dog bite wounds, animal saliva is heavily contaminated with bacteria
 - **Example**- a dog or cat licks a cut or scratch
 - **Bites to the Hand**- potentially dangerous because of the structure of the hand has many bones, tendons, and joints with less blood circulation making it harder for the blood to circulate and can lead to osteomyelitis or septic arthritis



Facts:

- **Dog Bites**- cause 10 to 15 fatalities a year in the US
- **Types of Infections**- Pasteurellosis, Streptococcal and Staphylococcal Infections, Capnocytophaga Infection
 - **Pasteurellosis**- occurs within 2 to 12 hours of the bite with pain, redness, and swelling of the area, can cause permanent damage if not addressed by a Health Care Provider immediately
 - **Streptococcal and Staphylococcal Infections**- causes infections similar to those caused by pasteurellosis, seek medical attention
 - **Capnocytophaga Infection**- very rare infection, very dangerous, can cause septicemia or blood poisoning especially if the immune system is compromised, 30% who developed died, early symptoms- nausea, headache, muscle aches, tiny reddened patches of skin
- **Dogs**- have strong jaws, large dogs can exert 450 pounds per square inch, teeth are dull, usually crush the tissue bitten with lacerations or tearing of the skin, do a lot of damage from the trauma of the bite, is susceptible to infection
- **Cats**- have teeth that are thin and sharp, usually make puncture wounds, can reach into bones and joints to introduce bacteria deeply into the tissue
 - **Puncture Wounds**- are very difficult to clean, much bacteria can be left in the wound, bites are to the hands make infection more likely

What can I do?

- **See your Health Care Provider**- immediately scrub the wound with soap and water, follow the washing with an antiseptic solution- iodine or disinfectant

