



Dog Foster Bite Protocol

If your foster dog bites you, a member of your household, or anyone else please follow the steps below.

If a bite occurs:

1. Immediately move 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 K9 Foster Coordinator (lrhoades@cityofsacramento.org) and the K9 Foster Team (foster-rescue@cityofsacramento.org) via email. If it is an emergency or you need immediate assistance, call or text the K9 Foster Team at 916-709-7991. Your email should include a detailed description of the incident and photos of any injuries (this can be done in a follow up email).
3. The Dog Foster Team 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. Assess the need for medical care. (See guidelines below.)
2. The Foster Team 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. Note: By California law, puppies under the age of 4 months will not have been vaccinated for rabies.
3. If the bite broke the skin (deep scratch, puncture wound, bleeding), it may be necessary to quarantine the foster dog for 10 days. After 10 days the dog will be cleared medically.

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?

1. No, no further action is required.
2. Yes, see below depending on the type of wound:
 - o **Scratches:** Watch for signs of possible infection - swelling, redness, abnormal discharge. If any of those symptoms occurs, seek medical attention.
 - o **Punctures:** The person bitten may need oral antibiotics. Please seek medical attention **IMMEDIATELY** to prevent sepsis, loss of function, or even death.
 - o **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 Foster Team to develop a more 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.

Note: Dog to dog bites and any injuries caused to another animal should also be reported to the Dog Foster Coordinator.