

PRECAUTIONS TO TAKE:

- Vaccinate your dogs and cats.
- Bat proof your home/ have it inspected for bat roosts.
- Do not feed, touch or adopt wild or stray animals.
- Tightly cap garbage cans so that you will not attract animals to your home or yard.
- Feed pets indoors and never leave them outdoors unattended.
- Always walk your dog on a leash and keep your cat inside.
- Keep a pair of gloves handy in case your pet is attacked.

Bite-Proof your Children

Warm weather means kids on the move. Children on bicycles, skates and skateboards explore new places and come into contact with different sights, sounds, people and yes animals . . .

To prevent upsetting or even tragic situations resulting from active children encountering strange dogs, teach your children these rules about how to behave around dogs:

Dogs do not like to be teased. Stay away from dogs that are chained or in fenced yards. Do not shout, run around, or stick hands at dogs through fences or open car windows. Never approach a strange dog.

Dogs are possessive about certain things. Do not grab things like bones, balls or other pet toys from a dog.

Never stick your hand into a dog fight. Find an adult to help.

Know what an angry dog looks like. Barking, growling, snarling with teeth showing, ears laid flat, legs stiff, tail up, and hair standing up on a dog's back are warning signs.

If a dog looks this way, slowly walk away sideways. Shout "No" at the dog and act like the boss. Never stare a dog in its eyes, or turn around and run away. Stand like a tree or if knocked to the ground, curl up in a ball on the ground and protect your face if a dog attacks.

If bitten, tell an adult right away. Remember what the dog looked like, if it had a collar and in what direction it went. Wash the wound with soap and water. See a doctor, and report the bite to the local health department.

The rewards of teaching consideration and respect for animals are children who are both humane and safe.

Important Phone Numbers:

Police _____

**Westchester County
Health Department
(914) 813-5000
24 hours/7 days a week**

**Visit our Website:
www.westchestergov.com/health**

**New York State
Department of Environmental
Conservation
(914) 256-3000**

**Distributed by Westchester County
Department of Health**

*Adapted from New York State Department of Health
Bite-Proof your children
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Westchester
gov.com

Andrew J. Spano, Westchester County Executive
County Board of Legislators

Bite-Proof Your Family

What to do if an animal bites you



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Joshua Lipsman, M.D., J.D., M.P.H. Commissioner

What to do if you are bitten by a wild animal

- Immediately wash the wound with lots of soap and running water.
- Capture the animal, if possible, so it can be tested for rabies. Contact your local Police or wildlife trapper for assistance if necessary. Take care to prevent additional bites or damage to the animal's head.
- Get medical attention. Go to your family doctor or the nearest emergency room. Do not delay.
- Call the Westchester County Health Department so arrangements may be made for the animal to be tested for rabies.
- If necessary, a dead animal may be kept on ice, double bagged in plastic, until it can be tested. When handling the animal, always wear gloves, use a shovel, and clean the area and tools with one part bleach to ten parts water. Keep the dead animal in a protected area away from people and other animals.



What to do if you are bitten by a pet



- Immediately wash the wound with lots of soap and running water.
- Obtain the pet owners name, address and telephone number. Find out if the animal has a current rabies vaccination and write down its rabies tag number.
- Get medical attention. Go to your family doctor or the nearest emergency room. Do not delay.
- Call the Westchester County Health Department to report an animal bite.
Have the following information ready:
- Type and description of the animal, including any distinguishing features or marks;
- If it was a pet, whether it wore a collar/tags, and where the animal lives;
- How the bite occurred;
- Whether the animal has been seen in the area before, and what direction it was last seen traveling.

What to do if you see a wild animal, especially a raccoon, skunk, fox or bat

- Stay away and keep your children away.
- Keep pets indoors.
- Let the animal go away on its own.
- You may call a wildlife trapper who will remove the animal for a fee.
- If a bat was in your house over night try to capture it and hold it for possible rabies testing, call the Westchester County Health Department, to help determine if humans or pets were put at risk.

If the animal is threatening people or pets:

- You can call the Westchester County Health Department for referrals to local wildlife trappers.
- Or you can call the police
- Or you can call the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation for referrals.

If your pet is exposed to an animal that might be rabid:

- Wear gloves when handling your pet. Saliva from the rabid animal may be on your pet's fur.
- Isolate your pet from other animals and people for several hours.
- Call the Westchester County Health Department to report the exposure.
- Call your veterinarian. Vaccinated pets will need a rabies booster shot within five days of the attack. An unvaccinated pet must be quarantined for six months or humanely destroyed.