



### FOSTER ANIMAL BITE PROTOCOL

*Please follow this protocol if your foster animal bites you, a member of your household, or anyone else.*

*Note: Dog to dog bites and any injuries caused to another animal should be reported to the TLHS Foster Team: [foster@tupeloleehumane.org](mailto:foster@tupeloleehumane.org)*

#### ***If a bite occurs:***

1. Immediately remove the foster animal 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 animal.
2. Report the incident immediately to 662-825-0614. If you do not receive a timely response, contact the TLHS Director of Operations at [director@tupeloleehumane.org](mailto:director@tupeloleehumane.org) and cc [foster@tupeloleehumane.org](mailto:foster@tupeloleehumane.org).
3. Your email should include a detailed description of the incident and photos of any injuries (this can be done in a follow up email).
4. The Foster Team will work with management and behavior staff to determine the animal's future placement and any needed 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. The Foster Team will verify the status of the animal's rabies vaccination and provide you with proof thereof, as needed. Note: By Mississippi law, animals under the age of 3 months (or 12 weeks) will not have been rabies vaccinated.
3. If the bite broke the skin (deep scratch, puncture wound, bleeding), it may be necessary to quarantine the animal for 10 days. This can usually be done in the foster home or, in some cases, may require an animal to serve the quarantine at the Tupelo Lee Humane Society. If the animal 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 and wash the bite wound(s) with warm running water and soap for 5 minutes. Rinse the wound(s) with Betadine solution if possible. 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, see medical attention.



## Information Overview

- 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 animal. In addition, reporting a bite and the circumstances surrounding a bite enable our Foster Team and behavioral staff to develop a more customized plan for your foster animal.

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.

***TLHS (Tupelo Lee Humane Society) is NOT liable for any damages relating to a bite or responsible for any medical bill or other costs associated with a bite (including any injury to another animal). If you choose not to seek medical help from a medical professional, TLHS is NOT liable for any resulting consequences.***