

ANIMAL BITES

Germs are harboured in the mouths of all animals (including humans). Bites from sharp, pointed teeth may cause deep puncture wounds that carry germs far into the tissues. Human bites also crush the tissues. Hitting someone's teeth with a bare fist can produce a "bite" wound at the knuckles. Serious wounds require hospital care; any bite breaking the skin needs prompt first aid, followed by medical attention. These wounds are very vulnerable to infection

TREATMENT

Your aims are:

- To control bleeding.
- To minimize the risk of infection, to the casualty and yourself.
- To obtain medical attention.

FOR SUPERFICIAL BITES

1. Wash the wound thoroughly with soap and warm water.
2. Pat dry and cover with an adhesive dressing or a small sterile dressing.
3. Advise the casualty to see his own doctor.

FOR SERIOUS WOUNDS

1. Control bleeding by applying direct pressure and raising the injured part.
2. Cover the wound with a sterile dressing, or clean pad bandaged in place.
3. Take or send the casualty to hospital.

RABIES

This is a potentially fatal viral infection of the nervous system, spread in the saliva of infected animals. Rabies is not currently found in the MALTA, but if a bite is sustained overseas, or from an animal, that casualty must receive anti-rabies injections. Rabies can only be confirmed if the animal is medically examined.

**SEEK THE HELP OF THE POLICE
TO SECURE OR RETRIEVE A SUSPECT ANIMAL.**