

# Dog attack

Bites from a pet or wild dog.

## Common

More than 200,000 US cases per year



Usually self-diagnosable



Lab tests or imaging not required



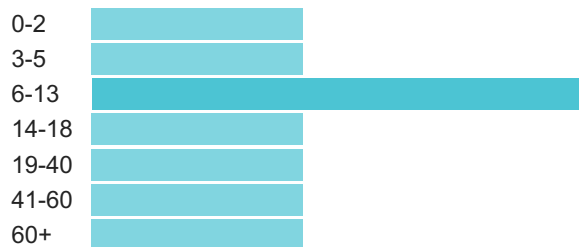
Short-term: resolves within days to weeks

A dog bite can lead to rabies or tetanus infection. Immediate medical care is needed when the bite is from a dog that has or might have rabies.

Symptoms of infection include redness, swelling, increased pain, and oozing. A doctor should look at these symptoms right away.

Bite wounds from dogs can range from minor to life-threatening and need to be treated quickly to prevent infection or traumatic complications. Not having had a tetanus shot in five or more years increases tetanus risk and a booster shot may be recommended.

## Ages affected



## Symptoms

### Usually self-diagnosable

Symptoms of infection include redness, swelling, increased pain, and oozing. A doctor should look at these symptoms right away.

### People may experience:

**Common symptoms:** bleeding, bruising, infection, redness, or swelling

## Treatments

### Treatment consists of antibiotics

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## Supportive care

**Wound irrigation:** Using sterile water to clean a wound.

**Wound dressing:** Protects damaged skin and helps control bleeding.

## Preventative

**Tetanus vaccine:** Protects against infection by *Clostridium tetani*, the bacteria that causes tetanus.

## Medications

**Penicillin antibiotic:** Stops growth of or kills specific bacteria.

- Amoxicillin / Clavulanic acid (Augmentin, AugmentinXR, and Augmentin ES-600)

## Specialists

**Primary care provider (PCP):** Prevents, diagnoses, and treats diseases.

**Emergency medicine doctor:** Treats patients in the emergency department.

**Critical:** consult a doctor for medical advice

Note: The information you see describes what usually happens with a medical condition, but doesn't apply to everyone. This information isn't medical advice, so make sure to contact a healthcare provider if you have a medical problem. If you think you may have a medical emergency, call your doctor or a emergency number immediately.

**Sources:** Mayo Clinic and others. [Learn more](#)