

# McHenry County Animal Control & Adoption Center (MCAC)

*Veterinary Public Health Division  
Upholding Illinois State Animal Control Act  
www.ilga.gov*

## Important Information Regarding Animal Bites:

### **What to do After a Bite:**

If you or someone you know is bitten by a dog or cat, you should do the following:

#### **If you CANNOT identify the owner, follow these two steps:**

1. Write down a description of the animal so that Animal Control can locate it. Color, breed, size, collar color, and location it was last seen are all extremely useful.
2. Call Animal Control at 815-459-6222

#### **If you CAN identify the owner of the animal, follow these three steps:**

1. Get the owner's name, address, and phone number
2. Get the name and a description of the dog or cat
3. Call Animal Control at 815-459-6222

#### **When you get to the doctor's office or hospital, follow these steps:**

1. Use the description you recorded about the animal to fill out the state-mandated animal exposure report
2. The doctor or healthcare provider will help you fill out paperwork with your name, address, contact number, age, location of bite, severity of bite, and why/how the animal bit you

Animal Control will work with local police departments to make every effort to locate a stray animal or its owner and make sure that animal undergoes a state-mandated post-bite rabies observation.

If the animal is not found, then your doctor will work with the Health Department on what the best protocol is for your safety.

**\*\*Animal Control DOES NOT take away people's animals, so do not be afraid to tell MCAC and the healthcare professional whose animal it is. Your safety is our main concern.\*\***

### **Treating Bites:**

If you are bitten by an animal:

- Find a safe place to assess the wound
- Wash the wound with soap & water and apply antibiotic cream
- See a healthcare provider about the bite, especially if rabies status of the animal is unknown
- Seek medical attention if the wound is red/swollen or if you develop a fever

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## **Preventing Bites:**

Dogs and cats are usually friendly human companions that provide happiness, emotional support, and excitement to a family. However, dogs and cats can also be unpredictable, especially when a dog or cat is in an unfamiliar situation, startled, or not feeling well.

Below are some tips from MCAC on how to prevent dog bites:

- “Be still like a tree” – remain motionless when approached by a dog that looks like it is going to bite or attack
- DO NOT disturb dogs with loud noises, fast movement, or while it is eating or sleeping
- Always pay attention to an animal’s behavior or warning signs that it is agitated
- Call MCAC’s Health Educator to schedule a bite prevention workshop
- Practice Responsible Pet Ownership (see the “Education” tab on our website)

## **About Us:**

The McHenry County Animal Control & Adoption Center (MCAC) is a division of the McHenry County Department of Health. Our organization is dedicated to:

- Improving the quality of life, health, and safety for county residents and their animals
- Promoting responsible pet ownership and bite prevention through education and practice
- Enforcing Article 6 of the McHenry county Public Health Ordinance

MCAC’s chief purpose is to regulate domestic animals in McHenry County. An Adoption Center has also been established to assist with lost and found pets, as well as helping abandoned or relinquished pets to find new and loving homes.