

Bites and Scratches

My child has been bitten, now what?

Observing the animal

- The 10-day observation period is a precaution against the small chance that an animal may appear healthy now but actually be sick with rabies.
- If the animal is healthy after 10 days we know that they did not have rabies at the time of the bite.
- **Do not** destroy the animal before talking to Public Health. If the animal must be put down before the 10 days is over it is **VERY** important that the animal is not shot in the head.
- Immediately destroying the animal might result in the injured person/child having to receive unnecessary vaccinations.
- Do not hide your pet, send it away with someone else, or take it to the animal shelter without talking to Public Health.

Who to call for more information

For information on pet behaviour or pet health, please call your local veterinarian or humane society.



For more information on rabies, animal bites, or other health-related issues, please call Public Health at:

Weyburn Public Health 842-8618

Carlyle Community Health 453-6131

Coronach Health Centre 267-5705

Redvers Health Centre 452-3464

Galloway Health Centre 483-2313

Kipling Community Health 736-2112, 736-2113

St. Joseph's Hospital 637-3626

Radville Public Health 869-2555



Pets and Your Baby



A curious and affectionate pet can unintentionally harm a baby

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Before Baby

Things we can do to help prepare our pet for the arrival of the new baby

Think Ahead



- Prepare for an infant's arrival at least one month in advance by setting up the crib and other furniture.
- Address pet training and behaviour problems.
- Teach pet to hold a sit/stay position and discourage from jumping up or going on your lap unless invited.
- Introduce new sounds, scents, and activities. Use a recording of a baby crying, baby lotions, and possibly a toy doll to help your pet get used to the real thing.
- Take pet to the vet for a health exam and ensure vaccinations are up to date.
- Pregnant women should avoid contact with cat feces (waste) due to risk of toxoplasmosis.

Bringing Baby Home

Things we can do to have a smooth transition

Create Positive Associations

- Bring home a blanket and allow your pet to become familiar with the infant's scent before bringing baby home.
- Give positive attention to your pet when the baby is present. This will help prevent the pet viewing the baby's presence negatively.
- Keep soiled diapers in a pet-proof location. Pets are likely to want to investigate new scents.

Exercise Caution

- **Never** leave the baby unattended with the pet no matter how short a time or how well behaved the pet!
- Consider waiting until children are older before bringing a new pet into your home.

In our Health Region...

Almost half of all dog or cat bites are from family pets!

Bites and Scratches

My child has been bitten, now what?

Don't Panic

- Wash the wound with soap and water.
- Seek medical attention.
- You will receive a call from a health inspector who will ask you about what happened and about the animal's vaccination history.
- Public Health will not take your dog away from you.

In our Health Region...

63% of animal bites to children aged 5 and under were to the head or neck.

Rabies

- The goal is to prevent human rabies, this is why a health inspector will contact you.
- Rabies vaccination in animals is not 100% effective. Even a vaccinated animal has a small risk of getting and passing on rabies.
- In most cases, the health inspector will request that the animal be kept alive for a 10-day observation period.