

Help!

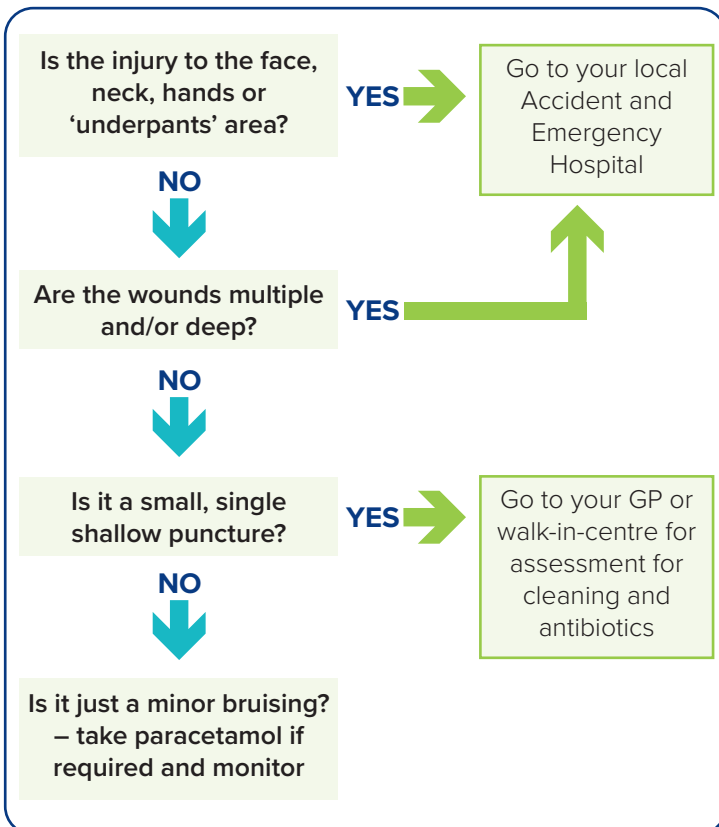
I've been bitten by a dog!

It's important that any animal bite is treated properly, so use this handy guide to know what to do if you have been bitten by a dog.

1. Seek medical attention if required.

- If you are seriously hurt and require emergency urgent assistance, please call 999.
- All wounds may become infected** and require cleaning:
 - clean the wound immediately by running warm tap water over it for a couple of minutes – it's a good idea to do this even if the skin doesn't appear to be broken
 - remove any objects from the bite, such as teeth, hair or dirt
 - encourage the wound to bleed slightly by gently squeezing it, unless it's already bleeding freely
 - if the wound is bleeding heavily, put a clean pad or sterile dressing over it and apply pressure
 - dry the wound and cover it with a clean dressing or plaster
 - take painkillers if you're in pain, such as paracetamol or ibuprofen – children under 16 years old shouldn't take aspirin

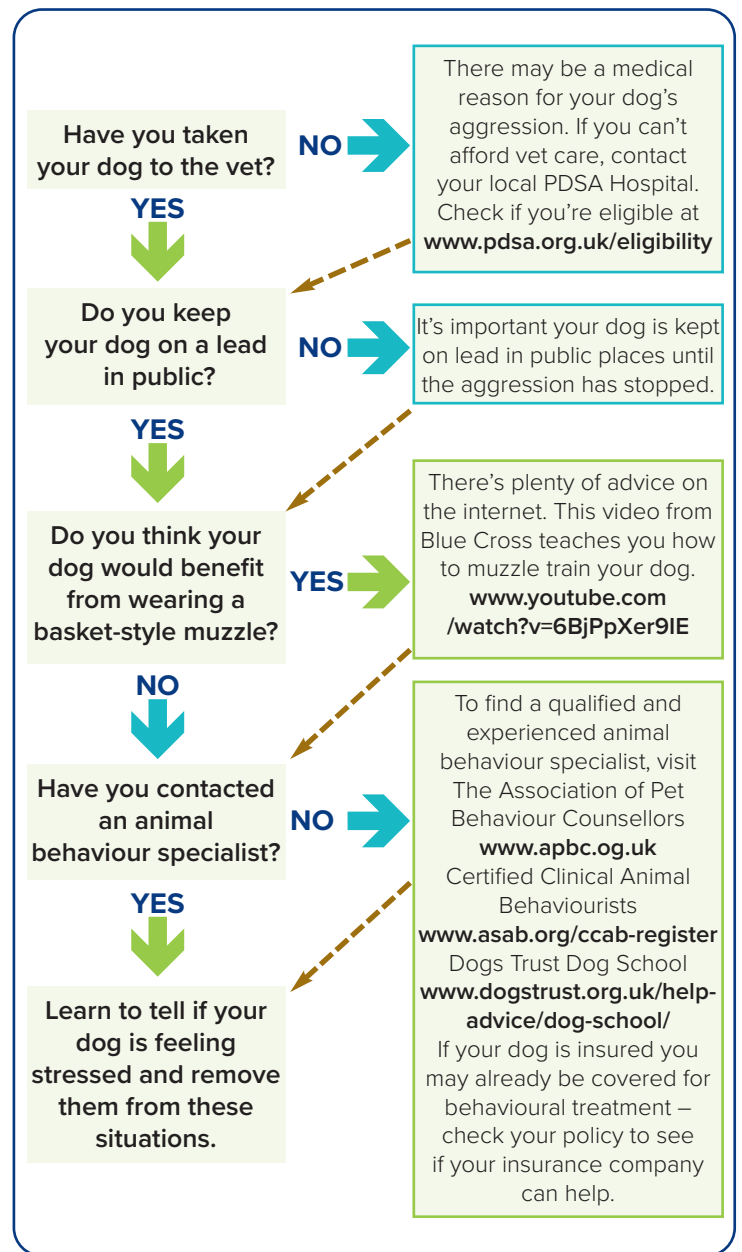
Follow the guide below to see whether you need further medical treatment.



2. Advise the owner to seek behavioural help for the dog

If the dog belongs to you or a family member or friend, help is available. Aggression towards people is a serious behavioural problem, that will only get worse without treatment.

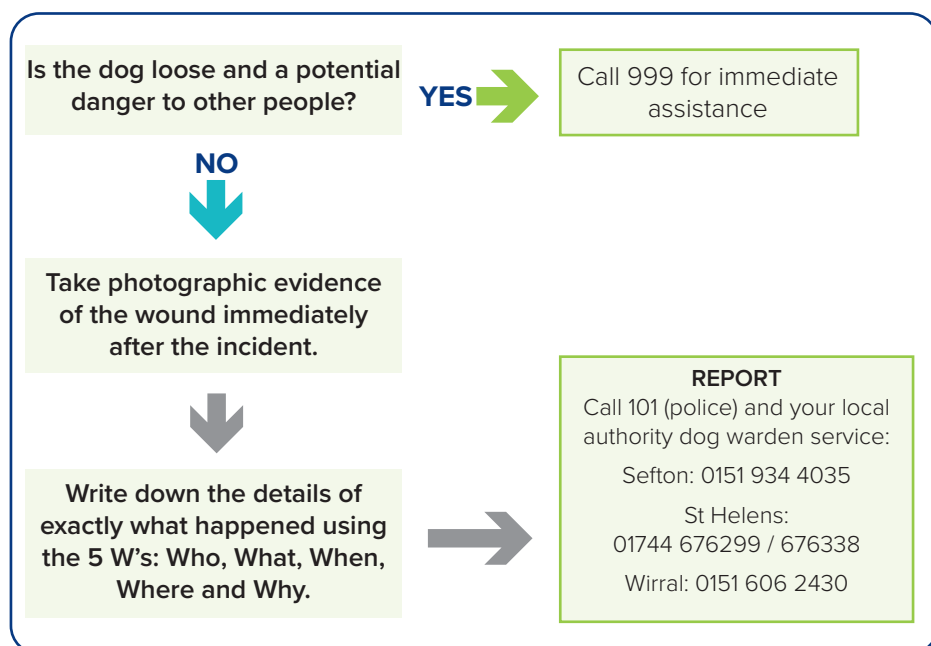
Give them this advice:



3. Report the bite.

So we can prevent dog other bites from happening, it's important that all dog bites are reported.

Remember, you can remain anonymous if you'd prefer not to give your name.



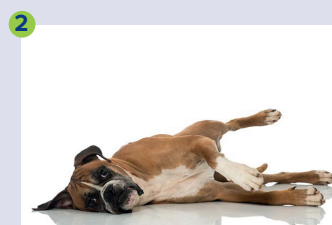
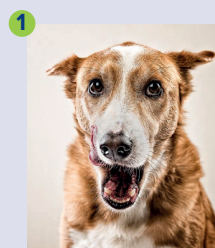
WHY DO I NEED TO REPORT IT?

- The dog may go on to bite somebody else, including a child, and you could have prevented this if you had reported it.
- In order to better understand and prevent dog bites from occurring, we need to collect data about incidents.
- It is an offence for a dog to bite or make a person feel threatened (the dog does not have to actually bite someone) in both a PUBLIC or PRIVATE place, including inside the dog's home.
- Police and local authorities will investigate and will give helpful advice to prevent it happening again.

For useful legal advice about dog bite incidents please see www.doglaw.co.uk

DOG RULES

- If you are going to touch a dog then remember that dogs prefer to be stroked gently than being kissed and cuddled.
- Learn the body language and communication signs that a dog is unhappy or frightened, for example:
 - 1 Excessive yawning, licking lips, ears lowered, eyebrows furrowed
 - 2 Raising a paw, exposing under belly
 - 3 Crouched, tail low, head low, whites of eyes
- Never leave dogs and children unsupervised.
- Use baby gates to separate dogs from people at times when they're likely to get over-excited.
- Never touch a sick or injured dog or one that is tied up.
- ALWAYS ask the owner before approaching a dog you don't know.
- Never take food or toys from dogs or physically wake them when they're sleeping.
- If you can't avoid a dog then never rush up to a dog; always approach them slowly.
- Approach dogs sideways and avoid staring at them.
- Never try to break up a dog fight with your hands or body.
- Dogs should get used to different people and other animals while young.
- Dogs should be taken to training classes..



Useful educational resources on dog communication and body language are available here:

PDSA 'Canine Communication' Schools Workshops – www.pdsa.org.uk/education-centre

An interactive app – www.dogdecoder.com/

Blue Cross website - www.bluecross.org.uk/pet-advice/be-safe-dogs

Dogs Trust 'Be Dog Smart' Programme – www.learnwithdogstrust.org.uk/free-learning-resources/community-education/be-dog-smart/index.html

The Blue Dog Project – www.thebluedog.org/en

Dr Sophia Yin - <https://drsophiayin.com/blog/entry/free-downloads-posters-handouts-and-more/>

RSPCA Understanding dog behaviour - <https://www.rspca.org.uk/adviceandwelfare/pets/dogs/behaviour/understanding>