

REGULATION

MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Related Entries: COB-RA, EBH-RA, EBJ-RA, ECJ-RA

Responsible Office: Deputy Superintendent for Instruction

Reporting and Caring for an Animal Bite

I. PURPOSE

To provide procedures for providing first aid and reporting an injury resulting from an animal bite

II. BACKGROUND

In case of a bite by a dog or other animal, infection from any of a variety of organisms is possible because of germs carried from the animal's mouth to the victim's skin and clothing and into the wound. Tetanus and rabies are particularly serious, and the danger of rabies is greater when the wound is on the head or neck of the victim. Illness may also occur if a sick animal licks an opening in the skin.

Rabid dogs, though noted to be hyperactive and vicious, sometimes demonstrate affectionate behavior. Although usually associated with dogs, rabies (as well as other diseases) can be spread by the bite of other animals, such as squirrels, gerbils, and hamsters. Rabies may be prevented by immunization of the victim.

An animal that bites an individual must be confined and kept under observation for signs or symptoms of rabies for ten days. If the animal remains healthy during the observation period, the danger of rabies is over. However, if the animal becomes ill or dies during the period of observation, the owner or, if the animal is part of a classroom exhibit, the principal/designee is responsible for promptly notifying the Department of Animal Control.

III. FIRST AID

First aid for an animal bite is administered as follows:

- A. Using soap and water, thoroughly and vigorously wash the wound to remove saliva
- B. Rinse the wound under running water

- C. Apply a sterile bandage

IV. PROCEDURES

- A. While under the jurisdiction of the school, a student receiving a wound caused by the bite of a dog, or any other animal, is referred to the community health nurse assigned to the school or health assistant or principal for first aid (See item III).
- B. The principal/designee is responsible for:
 - 1. Contacting the parents/guardians and advising them to consult promptly with the student's physician regarding medical treatment and preventive immunization
 - 2. Reporting the incident to the Department of Animal Control
 - 3. Completing MCPS Form 525-2: *Student Accident Report* (See Regulation EBH-RA: *Reporting Student Accidents*.)
 - 4. Signing the quarantine papers and arranging for the confinement and observation of an animal for ten days if it is part of a classroom exhibit or housed in a classroom for use in the educational program as directed by the Department of Animal Control. (Department of Animal Control will provide lab reports to the owner of the animal.)
 - 5. Notifying the Department of Animal Control if the animal becomes ill or dies during the period of observation

Regulation History: Formerly Regulation No. 525-12, April 10, 1980; reviewed April, 1988; reviewed February 17, 1995.