



# STEPS TO TAKE AFTER A DOG BITE

## 1. IDENTIFY THE DOG AND ITS OWNER

Immediately identify the dog and its owner or the people who had custody of the dog when it attacked you. Obtain these names and addresses along with witness information. If the dog's owner cannot be identified, you may be forced to undergo a series of rabies shots, which are painful and expensive.

## 2. SEEK MEDICAL CARE

Depending upon the severity of the dog bite, contact first responders (9-1-1) for immediate medical attention or have someone drive you to emergency care. Always seek professional medical treatment after being bitten or attacked by a dog. The risk of infection from a dog bite is far too great to ignore.

## 3. FILE A DOG BITE REPORT

After you've been medically treated -- even if the injury was minor -- file a dog bite report with the proper city or county authorities. This legally documents your case and provides help to the next victim who may be bitten or attacked by the same dog. Without a paper trail, authorities cannot enforce effectively.

## 4. GATHER MORE INFORMATION

After identifying the dog and its owner, find out more about the dog. Obtain the dog license information and any records pertaining to its previous history. Has the dog bitten or attacked a person or animal prior to biting you? Has the dog been legally designated "potentially dangerous" or "dangerous?"

## 5. PHOTOGRAPH YOUR INJURIES

Take photos of your injuries, even if you need to unwrap gauze. Confer with a doctor or nurse as needed. They will tell you a safe manner in which to do so. It is also recommended that you photograph all of your wounds, including bruises, as well as all torn, bloody clothing and the location of the attack.

## 6. CONTACT J. CHAD PARKER

Contact a dog bite attorney, J. Chad Parker, right away at (903) 509-3400. The legal issues surrounding dog bites are always complex and difficult to navigate through. J. Chad Parker and your medical doctor who treats your injuries that will look after your best interest from this point forward.

## 7. BEGIN A JOURNAL

If you seek medical compensation for your injury, start a journal as soon as you can. Spend a little time each day recording your thoughts for the few first weeks after the attack. Dog bite claims often take several years to complete. Anticipate keeping this journal on a weekly basis over the course of this time.