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February 3, 2011

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Hospitalizations for dog bites on the rise

A recent report from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services analyzing data from emergency rooms across the U.S. tells us that the number of hospital admissions due to dog bites has risen dramatically in the last 15 years: up 86 percent since 1993.



The dog-bite victims most likely to be hospitalized were young children and seniors.

The number one reason for hospitalization is infection; other injuries and complications range from open wounds on the extremities and wounds on the head, neck, and body to fractures and blood poisoning.

Residents of rural areas were 4 times as likely to visit the ER and 3 times as likely to be admitted than urbanites.

These dog bites are taking a real bite out of our collective wallets; the average cost is more than \$18,000 per patient and \$54 million overall. Ouch.

Protect yourself from dog bites by doing what mail carriers do. And if you've got children, check out these tips.

--Desiree Ferenczi

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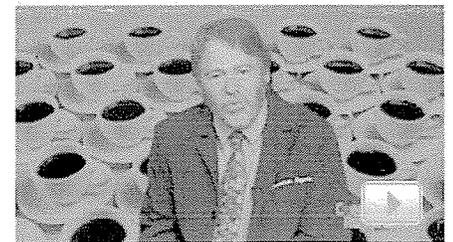
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Posted by: Officer | Feb 18, 2011 10:06:53 PM

I was an animal cop in Sarasota County. Our reg. states that any "breaking of the skin is considered a bite". So yes, a scratch is a bite. And as it states.... Its not the bite that is bad (most of the time) but it is the lack of taking care of the wound that is bad. I would love to see mandatory spay and neuter for all dogs. I now work for a TRUE NO KILL SHELTER (many state they are but only if dogs fit thier criteria) and we spay and neuter all dogs. Old and young alike. Please help a rescue with anything you can. Blankets,towels,sheets,treats,bowls,leashes... Money. Look up the small guys and check them out. Donate or volunteer. If you don't it's only the dogs that suffer.

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