

McHenry County Animal Control & Adoption Center:

Reporting Animal Bites:

If you or someone you know is bitten by a dog or cat, you should do the following:

If the animal is a stray see if someone you know owns it. Then, follow these two steps:

- 1.) Call Animal Control at 815.459.6222
- 2.) Write down a description of the animal so that Animal Control can locate it. Color, breed, size, collar color, and location seen are all extremely useful.

If the animal is owned, such as by a neighbor, friend, or person in a dog park/on the street, then follow these three steps:

- 1.) Get the owner's name, address, and phonenumber
- 2.) Get the name of the cat or dog
- 3.) Get a description of the dog or cat

When you get to the doctor's office or hospital, follow these steps:

- 1.) Use the description you recorded about the animal to fill out the state-mandated animal exposure report
- 2.) The doctor or healthcare provider will help you fill out paperwork with your name, address, contact number, age, location of bite, severity of bite, and why/how the animal bit you

Animal Control will work with local police departments to make every effort to locate a stray animal or its owner and make sure that animal undergoes a state-mandated, post-bite, rabies observation.

If the animal is not found, then your doctor will work with the Health Department on what the best protocol is for your safety.

These incidents also help us improve our education and outreach efforts, ensuring our interventions are targeted and effective.

Animal Control DOES NOT take away people's animals, so do not be afraid to tell MCAC and the healthcare professional whose animal it is. Your safety is our main concern.