



# CITY OF TOPEKA

Animal Control Unit  
Topeka Police Dept.  
320 S. Kansas Ave., Suite 100  
Topeka, Ks 66603-3619  
785- 368-9484



## **INFORMATION TO ANIMAL BITE VICTIM**

The Topeka Police Department receives reports of many animal bites each year. It is a time of concern and subsequently there are many questions you will have about what you should do and what is being done. This letter will answer some of those questions for you. You should recognize that the procedures listed are for the usual or customary cases and those with unusual circumstances may require us to deviate from these procedures.

After you report an animal bite incident to the Police Department, the following process will be initiated:

1. In each case of an animal bite it is advisable to immediately contact your physician or seek appropriate medical treatment.
2. If the biting animal is at large, the Animal Control Officer will attempt to capture the animal, if possible, and/or will notify the owner, if the owner can be determined. Depending on the circumstances, a citation may be issued at this time.
3. The Animal Control Officer will have the owner sign a quarantine and notify the Shawnee County Health Department of the bite. Most animals are quarantined at home.
4. The Shawnee County Health Department examines the animal at the end of the quarantine period (usually 10 days). For information concerning the examination, you may contact health officials at 785-251-5600.
5. If the animal is gone upon arrival, Animal Control Officers will continue to make every effort to locate the animal and/or owner. There will be instances where in spite of our best efforts, an animal cannot be located nor its owner identified.
6. If an animal is not available for examination at the end of the quarantine period, we urge you to consult with the Shawnee County Health Department at 785-251-5600 and your physician for their advice and guidance.
7. The victim may register a citation with an Animal Control Officer by contacting 785-368-9203 if they so choose. The process of registering a citation would be to identify the dog and where it lives. The animal control officer can contact the owner and serve the citation. If the situation warrants, the dog could be seized and impounded on dangerous dog charges.
8. If you need follow-up information from the Topeka Police Department, call the Animal Control Office at 785- 368-9484. Normal business hours for this office are 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays.

The Topeka Police Department hopes this information will assist you should you or a member of your family experience an animal bite. Please let us know if we can be of further assistance.