

infected than those in more vascularized areas, such as the face; puncture wounds are more likely to become infected than lacerations.

## **Nursing Care Management**

The most important aspect related to animal bites is prevention. Children should understand animal behavior and develop respect for animals. Parents should monitor their children's behavior with dogs and instruct them not to tease or surprise dogs, invade their territory, interfere with their feeding or sleeping, take their toys, or interact with sick or injured dogs or dogs with pups. Parents who are considering getting a pet, especially a dog, for themselves or their children should select a dog that has a high level of sociability with, and is unlikely to be a danger to, children.

## **Human Bites**

Children often acquire lacerations from the teeth of other humans in rough play, during fights, or as victims of child abuse. Because human dental plaque and gingiva harbor pathogenic organisms, all human bites should receive immediate medical attention. Delayed treatment increases the risk of infection.

The wound is washed vigorously with soap and water, and a pressure dressing is applied to stop bleeding. Ice applications minimize discomfort and swelling. Tetanus toxoid is needed if the child is insufficiently immunized. Wounds larger than 6 mm should receive medical attention.

## **Thermal Injury**

### **Burns**

Burn injuries are usually attributed to extreme heat sources but may also result from exposure to cold, chemicals, electricity, or radiation. Most burns are relatively minor and can be treated in an outpatient setting. However, burns involving a large body surface area, critical body parts, or the geriatric or pediatric population often benefit from treatment in specialized burn centers. The American Burn Association has established criteria to guide