

ANIMAL BITES

Must a physician report cases of animal bites?

While not all animal bites require reporting, those bites in which human exposure to rabies is suspected is reportable to the local health jurisdiction.¹ Principal health care providers should notify the local health department of animal bites immediately at the time of diagnosis or suspected diagnosis, by telephone or by secure facsimile transmission of a written case report. See **NOTIFIABLE CONDITIONS**.

What must a physician include in a report of a case of animal bite?

See **NOTIFIABLE CONDITIONS**.

Are there any penalties for failing to report an animal bite case?

Failure to make a required report can constitute unprofessional conduct which may subject a physician to disciplinary action. See **UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT**.

¹ WAC 246-101-101.