

**Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)**

SOP Title	<b>Children who attend with dog bites</b>		
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Care Group	Corporate Nursing, Patient Safety		
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SOP Objectives	To provide guidance for children who attend with dog bites
Scope	Children under 18 years of age

Process Stage	Brief	Responsibility
	<p><b>Background</b></p> <p>In May 2014 changes to the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 came into effect &amp; says all dog owners should be responsible for their dog's behaviour with other people and animals. Whether you own a large breed dog or a tiny one and however placid and friendly your dog is, the Dangerous Dogs Act applies to you.</p> <p>It's against the law to let a dog be dangerously out of control anywhere, e.g.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• in a public place</li> <li>• in a private place, e.g., a neighbour's house or garden</li> <li>• in the owner's home</li> </ul> <p>The law applies to all dogs.</p> <p>Generally, if a dog bites a person, it will be presumed to have been 'dangerously out of control', however even if the dog does not bite, but gives the person grounds to feel that the dog may injure them, the law still applies.</p> <p><b>Out of control</b></p>	Information Only

Process Stage	Brief	Responsibility
	<p>Your dog is considered dangerously out of control if it:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• injures someone.</li> <li>• makes someone worried that it might injure them.</li> </ul> <p>A court could also decide that your dog is dangerously out of control if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• it injures someone's animal.</li> <li>• the owner of the animal thinks they could be injured if they tried to stop your dog attacking their animal.</li> </ul>	
<b>Significant Injuries</b>		
1	<p>All children who attend with a dog bite from a dog they know must be referred to Children's Services and Police via 101 or online reporting form.</p> <p>If the dog is a stranger's dog then please encourage the family to contact the police if they haven't already done so.</p> <p>Inform the family you are making the referral and give the information leaflet. Consent is preferred but can be done without consent as this falls into the categories of Neglect and Physical Harm – As per Section 47 of The Children's Act 1989</p> <p>Referral forms are found on the Children's Safeguarding pages on the Intranet.</p> <p>Police can be contacted by phone on 101 or reported online by following this link <a href="#">Report a crime   West Mercia Police</a></p>	Triage Nurse
<b>Information to be recorded in child's notes</b>		
1	<p>Take a concise and accurate history, including,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has the dog bitten anyone before?</li> <li>• What time this happened?</li> <li>• Was it witnessed by anyone?</li> <li>• Where the dog bite occurred – private dwelling/public place – If in a public place, the family should be encouraged to contact the Police to report this as above</li> <li>• Events prior to the dog bite occurring.</li> <li>• Was there adult supervision while the child was with the dog?</li> <li>• Breed of Dog</li> <li>• Was the child eating food / waving food around or sharing food with the dog at the time of the incident?</li> <li>• Has the child accidentally / non accidentally injured the dog? E.g., Stood on the dog's tail, paw etc.</li> <li>• Has the child been pursuing the dog against its will?</li> <li>• How old is the dog? Could this be puppy behaviour or an older dog with hearing / sight issues?</li> </ul>	Triage Nurse
References	<p>The Children Act 2004  Dangerous Dog Act 1991  Gov.uk - <a href="http://www.gov.uk/control-dog-public/overview">www.gov.uk/control-dog-public/overview</a></p>	