

Dog Bite SOP

Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)

Title: Dog Bite Protocol

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Purpose: To provide guidelines for the prevention, identification, and management of dog bites to ensure safety and proper care for affected individuals.

Scope: This SOP applies to all staff and volunteers who interact with the dogs.

1. Prevention Measures

1.1 Education and Training:

- All staff and volunteers who interact with dogs to complete dog behavior training and watch dog fight video.
- Staff and volunteers are expected to review each dog's behavior plan before interacting with the dog.
- When introducing members of the public to dogs, staff and volunteers should provide guidance on how to safely interact with the dogs.

1.2 Safety Protocols:

- Always approach dogs calmly and allow them to sniff before petting. Use considerate approach and pet consent testing.
- Avoid sudden movements and loud noises around dogs.
- Monitor dog's body language for signs of FAS and respond appropriately.
- Members of the public must fill out and sign a waiver prior to interacting with the dogs.

1.3 Containment:

- Dogs should be wearing their proper walking equipment as assigned by the behavior team whenever they are not in the dog park or in their pod.
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2. Identification of a Dog Bite

2.1 Types of Dog Bites:

- **Minor Bites:** Skin punctures or scratches, usually superficial.
- **Moderate Bites:** Deeper punctures, possible bleeding, but not severe.
- **Severe Bites:** Deep wounds, potential for significant bleeding and injury.

2.2 Assessment:

- Evaluate the severity of the bite and the condition of the victim.
 - Document the incident, including the dog's behavior, the victim's response, and any witnesses. Take photos of the injury(s).
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3. Immediate Response

3.1 For Victims:

- **Minor Bites:**
 - Clean the wound with soap and water.
 - Apply an antiseptic and cover with a sterile bandage.
- **Moderate to Severe Bites:**
 - Apply direct pressure to control bleeding.
 - Seek medical attention immediately. Closest urgent care facilities:
 - Evergreen Health Urgent Care Monroe, 14841 179th Ave SE, Monroe, WA 98272
 - Providence Medical Group Monroe Clinic, 19200 N Kelsey St, Monroe, WA 98272

3.2 For the Dog:

- Isolate the dog to prevent further incidents. If needed, radio for assistance in returning the dog to their pod.
- Assess the dog's health and behavior for signs of illness or aggression.

4. Reporting Procedures

4.1 Incident Reporting:

- Complete and submit incident report forms detailing the bite circumstances, including date, time, location, and involved parties. Attach photos taken of injury(s).
 - [HR Incident Report](#)
 - [Behavior Incident Report](#)

4.2 Follow-up:

- Ensure the victim receives appropriate medical care and follow-up.
- Monitor the dog's health and behavior post-incident.

5. Post-Incident Review

5.1 Analysis:

- Review the circumstances of the bite to identify potential risk factors.
- Discuss preventive measures to reduce future incidents.
- Behavior team refer to the [bite matrix](#) to assess severity of bite.
 - For minor bites, no further steps required beyond documentation and filing of incident reports. If the dog has a previous minor bite on record, proceed to process for moderate bites.
 - For moderate bites, the dog should be made unavailable for adoption while the behavior team reviews the case. In most instances, the dog will be made available again after a behavior modification plan is enacted.

- For severe bites, make the dog unavailable for adoption and schedule outcome discussion.

5.2 Training Updates:

- Update training materials and conduct refresher courses based on lessons learned.