

SUBJECT: ANIMAL BITES**SECTION:** 302.15**REVISED:** OCTOBER 17, 2003**PAGE(S):** 1

PURPOSE

To aid fire department personnel in the handling of animal bites and the proper procedures in control of the animal.

POLICY

It shall be the policy of the fire department to provide medical care for animal bites and to gather information on the animal involved or secure control of the animal.

PROCEDURE

- A. Upon Arrival
 1. Evaluate patient needs.
 2. Determine the nature and severity of the bite.
 3. Provide appropriate emergency medical care.
 4. Request response of police if not already responding.
- B. Operations
 1. Gain information about the animal involved.
 2. Secure control of the animal, if possible. Safety of fire department personnel shall be of the utmost concern.
 - a. If the animal is wild, have dispatch notify Hamilton County SPCA.
 - b. If the animal is domestic and running wild, have dispatch notify Hamilton County SPCA.
 - c. If the animal is domestic and confined, advise owner to keep animal confined. Also, contact dispatch and have them notify the Hamilton County General Health District.
 3. When human bites are encountered, remember that they are more apt to become infected than animal bites, and extra care should be exercised.