



Information for patients, parents, and carers

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# Dog Bite Injuries in Children and Young People

## Safeguarding children and young people

When a child or young person attends our hospitals with dog bite injuries, this information must be passed on to the police. Staff will therefore contact the police on 101 or via an online reporting form, to discuss the situation. If you have attended another hospital first and they reported the injury, we may ask for the police reference number. The police may follow up any reports with the dog owner and/or parent/carer of the injured child or young person and may inform Children's Social care, if required.

## Dangerous Dogs Act 2014

This act states that all dog owners should be responsible for their dog's behaviour with other people and animals. This applies whether you own a large breed dog or a small one. Regardless of how placid or friendly the dog is, The Dangerous Dog Act applies if you have a dog and applies to all dogs.

It is against the law to let a dog be dangerously out of control anywhere in a:

- Public place
- Private place
- Or in the owner's home

## Advice that can be given to families to prevent injuries from dog bites and attacks.

- Ensure babies and young children are never left alone with a dog, no matter how familiar the dog is to the family.
- A range of resources about keeping children safe from dogs is available from the Blue Cross and Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA).

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❗ If you have further concerns about your condition, please contact your GP. If you are not sure what to do, call 111 or get help from 111 online: <https://111.nhs.uk/> When to use NHS 111 - NHS ([www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk))

## Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)

We can listen to feedback (positive or negative), answer questions and help resolve any concerns about Trust services. PALS can be contacted on 01904 726262, or email [yhs-tr.PatientExperienceTeam@nhs.net](mailto:yhs-tr.PatientExperienceTeam@nhs.net).

An answer phone is available out of hours.

## Leaflets in alternative languages or formats

If you require this information in a different language or format, for example Braille, large print, Easy Read, or audio, please ask the staff who are looking after you.

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