



First aid fact sheet

Bat bite or scratch



What to do

Anyone either bitten or scratched by a bat should IMMEDIATELY:

- 1 wash the wound thoroughly with soap and water
- 2 seek medical aid, regardless of the site or severity of the wound.

A protective vaccine can be administered even after the bite.



In Australia, flying foxes or other bats may carry lyssavirus* which is potentially fatal.

These animals must never be handled by people who are not trained to handle wildlife, even if the animal is injured.

*Also referred to as ABLV: Australian bat lyssavirus

In a medical emergency call Triple Zero (000)

DRSABCD Danger ▶ Response ▶ Send for help ▶ Airway ▶ Breathing ▶ CPR ▶ Defibrillation

You could save a life with first aid training • www.stjohn.org.au • 1300 360 455

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