



Pawsitively Transformational Health and Wellness, Inc

DOG BITE RATING SCALE

INSTRUCTIONS: Use the bite level rating descriptions below to complete your Bite History form.

Level 1. Obnoxious or aggressive behavior but no skin contact by teeth.

Level 2. Skin contact by teeth but no skin puncture. However, there may be skin nicks (less than one tenth of an inch deep) and slight bleeding caused by forward or lateral movement of teeth against skin, but no vertical punctures.

Level 3. One to four punctures from a single bite with no puncture deeper than half the length of the dog's canine teeth. There may be lacerations in a single direction, caused by victim pulling body part away, owner pulling the dog away, or gravity. An example of gravity is: a little dog jumps, bites, and then drops to floor.

Level 4. One to four punctures from a single bite with at least one puncture deeper than half the length of the dog's canine teeth. There may also be deep bruising around the wound (for example, the dog held on for N seconds and bore down). Alternatively, there may be lacerations in both directions (for example, the dog held on and shook his or her head from side to side).

Level 5. Multiple-bite incident with at least two Level 4 bites OR a multiple-attack incident with at least one Level 4 bite in each.

Level 6. Victim dead.

Adapted by N.L. Redekopp from Dr. Ian Dunbar's Dog Bite Scale. Date of access 4/30/23. <https://apdt.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/ian-dunbar-dog-bite-scale.pdf>