



Canine Coaching Ireland

DOG BITE SEVERITY SCALE

Bases on an objective assessment of the severity of dog bites
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Description

Prognosis

LEVEL 1

Snapping - air bite with no contact

Can occur when the dog's other signs of fear or stress are ignored.
Dog is not dangerous

Good Outcome

LEVEL 2

Near bite - Skin contact but no puncture, may leave a bruise or scratch

This is concerning even though the dog didn't lose control, & the bite was inhibited. Understanding the reasoning behind it can prevent future occurrences

Good Outcome

LEVEL 3

Bite with puncture mark - Puncture wounds no deeper than half the length of the dog's canine teeth.

3a - Single bite 3b - Multiple bites

Without behaviour modification, there is a chance of repeat occurrences with increased severity, especially if cornered or frightened.

Fair to Good outcome with owner compliance

LEVEL 4

Deep puncture marks - one to four puncture marks with at least one of these marks being deeper than half the length of the dog's canine teeth.

A bite of this level will also see the dog clamping down and possible shaking the victim from side to side.

This is a harder bite than level 3. The dog is not controlling the strength of the bite. Very likely to bite again. Management with indoor confinement and no contact with strangers, and in the care of a very experienced dog owner.

A bite of this level can kill a child

Poor Outcome

LEVEL 5

Multiple level four bites. severe damage to the victim.

The dog is extremely dangerous and would have a poor quality of life in solitary confinement,

Euthanasia is the best option.

LEVEL 6

The victim dies following the attack.

Bad Outcome