

# Bites And Stings

- Rinse all bites 5 minutes with water
  - (except severe bites)
- Clean with soap and water





# Dog Bites

- **If approached:**
  - **Stop/ Stand still**
  - **Talk softly**
  - **Move slowly**
  - **Never turn your back on a dog**
  - **Use: stick, mace, pepper spray**
  - **Concern for rabies**

# Rabies: Be Concerned If Skin Is Penetrated By:

- Unprovoked animal (squirrel)
- **Strange acting dog or other animal**
- Animal of high risk species
  - Raccoons
  - **Bats**
  - Foxes
  - Skunks





# Bites and Rabies

- An acute virus **disease of the nervous system** of warm-blooded animals, usually transmitted through the bite of a rabid animal
- **Results in hydrophobia:** throat muscles go into spasm if they try to drink and they choke
- **No cure once symptoms develop**

# Rabies: What To Do



- If bitten by a wild animal - suspect rabies
  - Clean wound with soap and water (under pressure)
  - Seek medical attention
    - Tetanus shot may be required
    - Start rabies treatment immediately (5 arm injections over one month)



# Rabies: What To Do With The Animal

- **Kill animal and transport entire body to a vet**
  - **Wear gloves to avoid infected saliva**
  - **Vet will decapitate and submit the head for rabies testing**

A decorative header strip at the top of the slide. It is divided into three sections: the left section shows a close-up of a yellow flower, the middle section shows a brown bird in flight over a green field, and the right section shows blue rocks with a stream of water flowing over them.

# Snakebites



# Pit Viper Bites: Signs and Symptoms

- Severe burning/ fang marks
- Swelling (occurs in 5 minutes and can involve entire extremity
  - Mark extent of swelling on body
- 6-10 hours later: potential discoloration and blood filled blisters



# Snake Bites: What To Do (controversial but generally recommended)

## ■ Pit Viper

- Get away from snake / may re-strike
  - Can strike  $\frac{1}{2}$  the length of their body
  - A decapitated head can react for 20 more minutes
- Have victim lie down and stay calm
- Do not move victim unless absolutely necessary
- Keep bitten area immobile and below the level of the heart
- Call 112
- Wash area with soap and water



# Snake Bites: What To Do #2

- If more than 1 hour from medical facility, use “extractor” within 3 minutes and left on for 30 minutes (pit vipers only)
  - (up to 30% of venom may be removed)
- Seek medical attention immediately
  - Anti-venom available only at hospitals
  - Same anti-venom used no matter type of snake
  - Must be given within 4 hours of the bite



# Snake Bites: What To Do

## ■ Do Not's

- Icing is not helpful
- “Cut and suck method”
- Avoid mouth suction
- No constriction bands
- (bite on local woman)





# Snake Bite Prevention

- Use caution around wood piles, rock crevices etc.
- Watch where you step
- Do not reach into holes or hidden ledges
- Wear boots, long pants, long sleeved shirts
- Don't sit or step over logs without checking it out
- Use a walking stick
- When camping, keep tent zipped at all times (float trip)(child sat on snake)
- Take a friend along

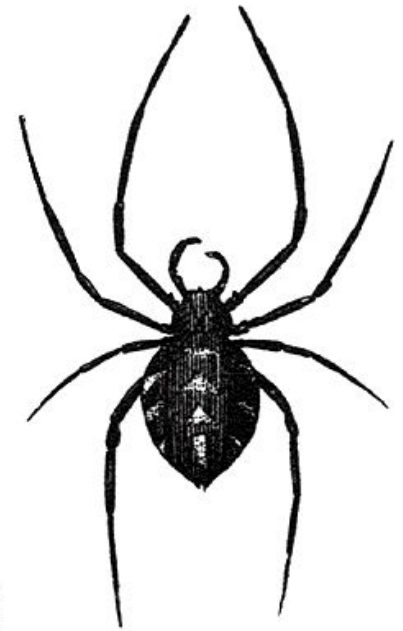
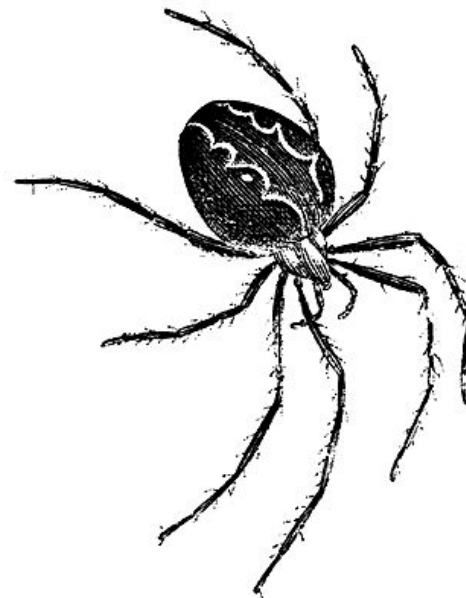


# Snakes: Additional Information

- Poor vision, especially when shedding
- Prime time for crawling snakes in this area:  
August
- Baby snakes have stronger venom
- Snakes just out of hibernation have stronger venom

# Spider Bites

- **Tarantula**
- **Black Widow**
- **Brown Recluse**



# Tarantula

- **Not life threatening**
- **Treatment**
  - **Cortisone cream**
  - **Antihistamines (benadryl)**



# Black Widow Bites

- Bite:
  - Pin-prick or no “bite” sensation
  - Immediate pain, swelling, redness
  - Headache, chills, fever, heavy sweating, dizziness, nausea, vomiting, severe abdominal pain
  - Faint red bite marks appear
  - Severe muscle pain, cramps, and stiffness
- Severe pain peaks in 2-3 hours but can last up to 48 hours





# Spider Bites: What To Do

- **Save spider for identification**
- **Keep bite area below the heart**
- **Clean bite site**
- **Ice**
- **Monitor ABC,s**
- **Seek medical attention immediately**





# Ticks

- **Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever**
- **Colorado Tick Fever**
- **Lyme Disease**



# Lyme Disease

- Spread by animals that carry deer ticks:
  - White tailed deer/ White footed mice
  - found primarily in the Northeastern U.S.
- Signs and symptoms: 3 to 30 days post bite
- **Is difficult to diagnose:** Flu-like, fever, chills, headache, joint stiffness, fatigue
- May be diagnosed initially as arthritis
- May come and go for years
- **Rash: white center with redness all around (hot to touch but without pain)**
- Treat with proper antibiotics



# Prevention for Tick Bites

- Insect repellent (DEET)
- Check for ticks frequently and remove
- Stay on path when hiking
- Tape jeans to boots
- Wear long sleeved shirts, long pants
- 7 dust for yards (controls fleas as well)



# Tick Removal

- Check hairy parts of the body (student)
- **Remove as soon as possible with tweezers (pull slowly and gently)**
  - Do not use nail polish, hot match etc.
  - If head or mouthparts remain, remove as if a splinter



# Tick Bites: First Aid

- Clean wound site
- Watch for infection and other symptoms
- See physician if:
  - Rash
  - Fever, muscle aches, sensitivity to bright light, weakness in limb, paralysis

# Insect Stings

- Worrisome Reactions:
  - **Normally, the sooner the symptoms develop, the more serious**
  - Flushed skin /blue skin
  - Hives
  - Swelling of lips, tongue, throat
  - Wheezing, “tickle in throat”
  - Abdominal cramps, diarrhea
  - Trouble breathing
  - Seizures





# Stings: First Aid

- **Remove stinger by scraping with a credit card or like item (back out the stinger)**
  - Stinger injects poison for 2-3 minutes up to 20 minutes after sting
- Stung in the throat? Suck on ice or flush with cold water, hold baking soda water in the mouth





# Stings: First Aid #2

- Cleanse site
  - Use extractor if available
  - Use a commercial “sting stick”
  - Apply ice (slows absorption, relieves pain)
  - Baking soda paste
  - Meat tenderizer
  - Tobacco
  - Vinegar or lemon juice suggested for wasp sting
- Aspirin, Tylenol, hydrocortisone cream
- Benedryl (or other antihistamine) if given early may prove helpful



## Stings: First Aid #3

- **Observe for 30 minutes**
  - Keep anaphylaxis in mind
  - Epinephrine
  - Re-inject after 15 minutes if necessary
- **Watch for delayed allergic reaction (possibly the next day)**