IMPACT LEGAL
Car Accident Attorneys

T-SHIRT LAWYER

05 ARIZONA FIELD COMPANION

AFTER A DOG BITE

Care first. Then make the record.

You do not need to resolve the owner's explanation before getting treatment. Start with your health, report the bite, and save the information that will otherwise scatter.



Arizona guidance, with a Maricopa County reporting starting point.

01

Call 911 for an ongoing attack or serious bleeding.

02

Get prompt medical advice, even for a small puncture.

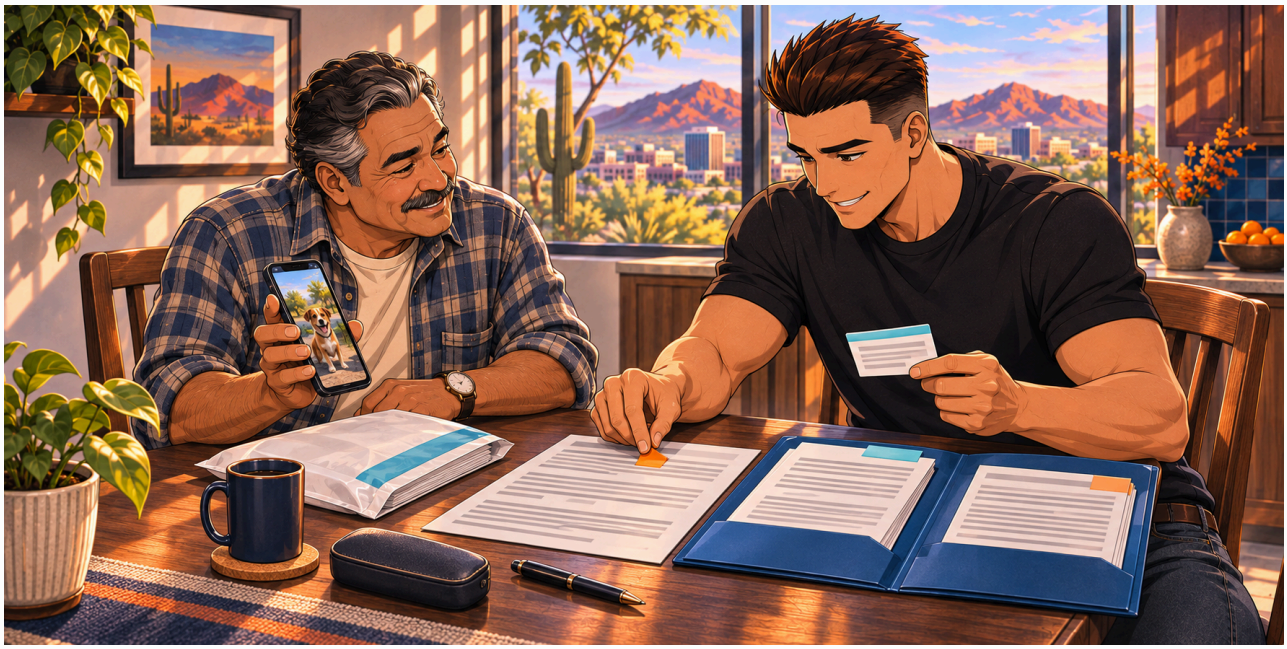
03

Report the bite and ask for a reference number.

UNDERSTAND THE ISSUE

Treat the bite. Report the bite.

These are different jobs. One phone call may not finish both.



Let a clinician assess the wound

Move away from the animal without trying to capture it. When safe, wash the wound thoroughly with soap and water. Apply firm pressure with a clean cloth for bleeding; call 911 for serious or uncontrolled bleeding. Deep wounds need immediate medical attention.

Contact a healthcare professional promptly about a bite that breaks skin, especially a bite to the hand, face or near a joint. Ask about infection, tetanus and rabies assessment. Do not wait for the owner to locate paperwork before seeking advice. A vaccination claim is useful information, not a medical evaluation.

Use the location of the bite

Arizona generally requires a person with direct knowledge of an animal bite to report it immediately to the county enforcement agent. In Maricopa County, start with Animal Care and Control at 602-506-7387 or its official reporting page; confirm which agency handles the address. Some cities handle their own calls. On tribal land, contact tribal police or animal control.

Give the location, time, dog description and owner's details. Ask which agency has the report and what happens next. Animal-control observation does not replace your clinician's treatment advice. If the dog cannot be found, tell both the agency and your clinician.

KEEP THIS DISTINCTION

An animal-control report documents the incident. It does not file a civil lawsuit or guarantee an insurance payment.

MAKE THE NEXT STEP USEFUL

Build one useful incident record.

Write down facts while they are fresh. You can leave an answer unknown.

01 Identify the people

Ask for the owner's name and contact information, plus the handler's and witnesses' details. For qualifying bites, Arizona requires the owner or caretaker to provide the owner's contact information.

02 Save the evidence

Photograph your injuries, damaged clothing and the location when safe. Preserve original files, messages and any video. Do not approach the dog for a better picture.

03 Track the follow-up

Keep visit instructions, bills and missed-work records. Note pain or functional changes accurately. Photograph healing over time without delaying care.

The next call should be easier

Record	Details	Follow-up
Date / time / exact location		
Owner / handler / witness		
Agency / report number		
Clinic / next appointment		

Vaccination records requested from: _____ File location: _____

KEEP WITH YOUR RECORDS

What the law can and cannot answer.

A friendly history does not decide the claim. Neither does an alarming breed label.

Owner responsibility has conditions

A.R.S. 11-1025 can make an owner responsible for bite damages when the person was in public or lawfully on private property, even without a known history of viciousness. Provocation is a statutory defense. Police or military dogs raise special rules. The location, conduct and circumstances need an individual review.

Reporting and compensation are separate

Animal control investigates and determines applicable handling requirements; a report does not automatically mean a dog will be euthanized. An insurance claim asks a different question: whether a policy covers this incident and loss. Save the policy information if available, and get legal deadlines checked promptly. Do not assume an open investigation or a friendly promise to pay protects a filing deadline.

Check the source

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CDC: Dog bites
Wound care and medical assessment.

A.R.S. 11-1014
Reporting and animal handling.

A.R.S. 11-1027
Provocation defense.

Maricopa County reporting
Official report starting point.

A.R.S. 11-1025
Liability and owner information.

Questions for the next conversation

Disclaimer

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Keep a record of every handoff. “Someone else is handling it” is not a report number.