Cat Bites - Medical Implications

Name ________________________________

Wound inflicted

at ____________ (Time)

on ____________ (Date)

We suggest that you seek medical attention as soon as possible and present this note to your GP or casualty department.

Cat bites and deep scratches are potentially very dangerous. Most normal cats carry *Pasteurella multocida* in their oral cavities. *Streptococcus* species and *Fusobacterium* organisms are also often present and a significant percentage of cats carry *Bartonella* species, the organisms thought to cause Cat Scratch Disease. Bites and deep scratches can result in the deep implantation of any or all of these organisms. Tetanus, although obviously not to be ignored, is of lesser significance.

Early antibiotic therapy is usually required to prevent the debilitating effects of such injuries.

Without proper attention, severe septic infections may result in local and/or systemic signs. If involving the hand, this may include partial or complete loss of use of fingers. Some of these diseases can be life-threatening to immunocompromised individuals, such as HIV-positive patients. **Patients with prosthetic joints or other prosthetic implants are at particular risk of serious consequences from infections arising from animal bites and scratches (Ciampolini et al 2004)**

References