Prophylactic Guidelines for Animal Bites: generally restricted to 3-5 days maximum with appropriate wound management (for established infection, 5-14 days)

Antibiotic	Adult Dosing	Children & Infants > 28 days old
First Line: Amoxicillin – clavulanate	875/125 mg twice daily	45 mg/kg/day based on amoxicillin component in divided doses every 12 hours

Alternate regimens include one of the following with activity against *Pasteurella multocida and Capnocytophaga*

Antibiotic	Adult Dosing	Children & Infants > 28 days old
Trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole (TMP-SMX)	1 double-strength tablet twice daily	8-10 mg/kg/day (trimethoprim component) twice daily (maximum 160 mg trimethoprim per dose)
Doxycycline	100 mg twice daily	1 to 2 mg/kg twice daily (maximum 100 mg per dose)
Penicillin V	500 mg 4 times daily	12.5 mg/kg 4 times daily (maximum 500 mg per dose)
Cefuroxime	500 mg twice daily	10 to 15 mg/kg twice daily (maximum 500 mg per dose)
Ciprofloxacin	500 to 750 mg twice daily	Use fluoroquinolones with caution in children < 18 years of age
Levofloxacin	750 mg daily	Use fluoroquinolones with caution in children < 18 years of age
		≥6 months old and <50 kg: 8 to 10 mg/kg twice daily (maximum 375 mg per dose)
		≥50 kg: 750 mg once daily
PLUS one of the following agents with anti-anaerobic activity:		
Clindamycin	300 to 450 mg 3 times daily	10-25 mg/kg/day every 6-8 hours (maximum 600 mg per dose)
Metronidazole	500 3 times daily	1 month–17 years: 10 mg/kg twice daily (maximum of 500 mg/dose)
OR monotherapy with a fluorquinolone with anti-anaerobic activity		
Moxifloxacin	400 mg daily	Use fluoroquinolones with caution in children < 18 years of age

- Doses are for normal renal function and may need adjustment for renal insufficiency.
- For children allergic to penicillin TMP-SMX OR extended-spectrum cephalosporins PLUS anti-anaerobic agent preferred. Alternative regimens for adults allergic to penicillin or other beta-lactams include Doxycycline, or TMP-SMX OR levofloxacin PLUS metronidazole OR moxifloxacin monotherapy. Avoid agents with poor activity against *P. multocida*: cephalexin, dicloxacillin, and erythromycin.
- Teeth staining can occur with repeated courses of doxycycline for young children (<8 years).
- Resources:

  Ortiz DD and Lezcano FO. *Amer Fam Phy.* 2023. At https://www.aafp.org/pubs/afp/issues/2023/1100/dog-cat-bites.html. Accessed 7 Apr. 2026.