

Abrasions and lacerations

Damaged skin needs prompt treatment to avoid infection.

Abrasions (scrapes) and lacerations (cuts) can range from mild and superficial to large, deep wounds. Common causes include bites, scrapes, falls, and cuts from sharp wire or glass. Larger wounds may also include damage to muscles, organs, and bones.

- ▶ Severe skin injuries can be life-threatening, especially with significant bleeding or if treatment is delayed.

What do they look like?

Common signs:

- Visibly damaged skin
 - Redness, swelling, or bleeding
 - Chewing or licking at the damaged area
 - Pain
- ▶ Not all skin injuries are obvious, so check under your pet's hair and in skin folds.



How are they diagnosed?

- History
 - Clinical signs, like swelling
 - Physical exam results
- ▶ Deeper and more serious wounds may need to be evaluated under anesthesia.

How are they treated?

Treatment is based on the extent and severity of the injuries. All treatments involve clipping and cleaning the area, and may include pain relief and antibiotics.

- Significant injuries can require deep tissue flushing, removal of any foreign bodies under the skin, and surgical repair under anesthesia
- Your pet may need surgical sutures, drains, or surgical staples, plus an e-collar to prevent licking or chewing their injury
- Bandages may be used, depending on the location of the wound (and your pet's tolerance level)



- ▶ Good wound care is vital for a speedy recovery.



How to help your pet

- Administer all medications as prescribed
- Carefully follow any postsurgical, bandage, or wound-care instructions, including activity restrictions and e-collar use
- Monitor your pet carefully and schedule a checkup if you have concerns, or as recommended by your veterinary team
- Contact your veterinary team with any questions
- Need immediate advice? Ping Vet Chat™—included in all pet Optimum Wellness Plans®!

