OREGON HEALTH AUTHORITY

The Tale of Timmy



A One Health Story for Kids



This is the story of Timmy.

Timmy was walking home from school one day when something most frightening happened.



Timmy was bitten by a dog!

The dog came charging out of a house and grabbed his leg. Timmy slowly backed away from the dog, and when it let go for a moment, he ran straight home.

Timmy entered the house and yelled, "Dad, help! I'm bleeding!"



Timmy's dad rushed over and took a closer look at his wound. Then he grabbed his car keys and said, "Come on Timmy, we're going to the doctor."



Timmy's doctor asked Timmy all about what happened. She heard that the dog came out of a house and had a collar on, which meant it was somebody's pet.

She carefully treated the wound, cleaning it and bandaging it up.

But even after talking to Timmy and his dad, the doctor still had a few questions. She wondered, "Does Timmy need the rabies vaccine to protect him? How much is he at risk of rabies?"

She didn't know for sure, but she knew who she could ask.



The doctor called the Local Public Health Authority and spoke to a nice woman on the phone.



The doctor shared the story of Timmy and the dog bite, and the woman on the phone walked her through the rabies risk for Timmy, which in this case, was not much risk at all.



The work didn't stop there for public health. The woman called the home of the property where Timmy was bitten and talked to the dog's owner. She asked the owner to quarantine her dog for 10 days.

She also shared what happened with the State Health Department and Animal Health Services. Everyone agreed on Timmy's treatment plan and on the plan for the dog too.



The doctor returned to Timmy's room and shared her conversation with local public health.

Timmy and his dad were relieved that Timmy would not need to start the rabies series, which would have required lots of shots, follow-up visits and money.

Thanks to Timmy's quick thinking, his dad, his doctor, the Local Public Health Authority, the State Health Department and Animal Health Services all working together, Timmy was able to get the care he needed and have a quick recovery.

