



## Dog Bite Injuries: Reconstructive Options and Long-Term Care

Dog bites can cause serious physical and emotional trauma, especially when they affect the face, hands, or other visible areas. At the **Plastic Surgery Institute of Miami**, Dr. Thomas J. Zaydon, a world-renowned plastic surgeon with over twenty years of experience, provides advanced care for dog bite injuries, offering both functional repair and aesthetic restoration.

### Understanding Dog Bite Injuries

Dog bites can result in deep lacerations, tissue loss, nerve damage, and a high risk of infection. Facial injuries require particular attention because they impact both appearance and essential functions such as speech, eating, and expression. Immediate evaluation is crucial to minimize complications and ensure optimal healing.

### Reconstructive Options

Treatment depends on the severity and location of the injury. Reconstructive approaches include:

- **Primary Repair:** Immediate closure of clean wounds to restore tissue integrity.

- **Local Flap Reconstruction:** Using surrounding tissue to cover wounds while maintaining natural facial contours.
- **Skin Grafts:** For larger areas of tissue loss when local tissue is insufficient.
- **Microsurgical Techniques:** For severe nerve or tissue damage, restoring both function and appearance.
- **Scar Management:** Techniques like laser therapy, silicone sheets, and targeted treatments to reduce long-term scarring.

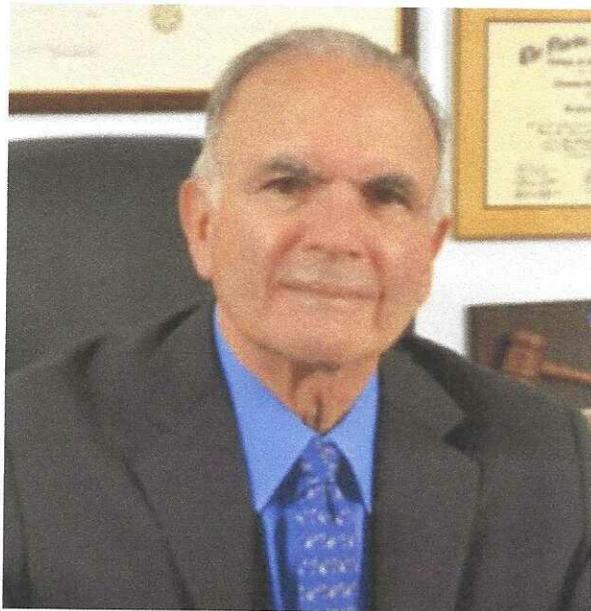
Patients seeking **dog bite reconstruction in Miami FL**, benefit from Dr. Zaydon's meticulous approach, which prioritizes both functional recovery and aesthetic outcomes.

## Long-Term Care and Rehabilitation

Recovery may involve multiple stages, including:

- Monitoring for infection and proper wound healing
- Physical therapy for hand or joint mobility
- Scar management and cosmetic refinement
- Psychological support for trauma-related stress

Long-term follow-up ensures both physical and emotional well-being, helping patients regain confidence and optimal function.



### Why Choose Dr. Thomas J. Zaydon

Dr. Zaydon is the founder of the **Plastic Surgery Institute of Miami** and a recognized leader in plastic and reconstructive surgery. He is board-certified by the American Board of Plastic Surgery and a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons. Dr. Zaydon has served as Chief of Plastic Surgery at Mercy Hospital in Miami and has authored numerous articles and chapters on plastic surgery. His extensive experience includes:

- Cosmetic and reconstructive procedures
- Expert witness and medical consultancy for liability and workers' compensation cases
- Peer review and independent medical examinations

With a career spanning over twenty years, Dr. Zaydon combines surgical precision with advanced reconstructive techniques, making him highly sought after for **facial trauma, dog bites, and plastic surgery**.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. How soon should I see a plastic surgeon after a dog bite?

Prompt evaluation is critical to minimize complications and maximize reconstructive options.

### 2. Will I have visible scars after reconstruction?

Some scarring is expected, but Dr. Zaydon uses advanced techniques and scar management to minimize visibility.

### 3. Can function be fully restored for hand or facial injuries?

Many patients regain excellent function with early surgical repair and targeted rehabilitation, though severity affects recovery outcomes.

### 4. Are infections common after dog bites?

Prompt cleaning, antibiotics, and surgical intervention greatly reduce the risk of infection.

### 5. Does insurance cover dog bite reconstruction?

Coverage depends on the policy and circumstances. Dr. Zaydon's office assists patients in coordinating insurance for medically necessary procedures.

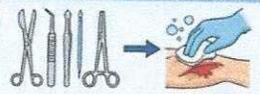


# DOG BITE INJURIES: RECONSTRUCTIVE OPTIONS & LONG-TERM CARE

A COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE FOR PATIENTS AND CARE PROVIDERS

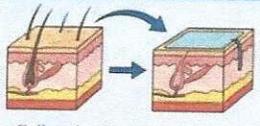
## 1. RECONSTRUCTIVE SURGICAL OPTIONS

**INITIAL ASSESSMENT & DEBRIDEMENT**



- Wound cleaning and sterilization
- Removing damaged tissue
- Infection prophylaxis

**SKIN GRAFTS**



- Full and split-thickness grafts
- Covering large, shallow defects

**TISSUE EXPANDERS**



- Pre-treating healthy skin
- Moving tissue with a blood supply

**FLAP RECONSTRUCTION**



- For deeper and complex defects
- Moving healthy tissue with underlying
- Moving healthy tissue with underlying structures

**SPECIALIZED FACIAL RECONSTRUCTION**



- Addressing functional and aesthetic concerns
- Precision-focused techniques

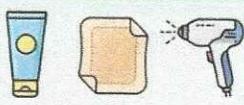
## 2. LONG-TERM CARE & REHABILITATION

**PHYSICAL & OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY**



- Restoring joint and muscle function
- Improving strength and dexterity

**SCAR MANAGEMENT**



- Topical treatments (creams, silicone)
- Laser therapy or surgical revision options

**PSYCHOLOGICAL SUPPORT**



- Addressing trauma, anxiety, and PTSD
- Counseling and support groups

**MONITORING FOR COMPLICATIONS**



- Long-term follow-up for function and aesthetics
- Regular check-ups

