

## **CELLULITIS INFECTION:**

This is a very dangerous infection, but actually quite common. You can get the bacterial called "Cellulites" from ANY kind of animal, human or insect bite. My first experience with this devastating bacterial was in 1979 when I was bitten on the inner thigh by a brown recluse spider. I lay sick for 3 weeks with fever, chills, and a huge red blotch the size of a cantaloupe melon. I did not know there was an antidote for this spider bite and was spared losing any of my flesh or leg regardless. If not treated at the time of flare up it can cause death.

Since then, I have had 4 fingers infected with this bacteria, on my left hand, and my right hand. The finger infections were treated with oral antibiotics. The first hand bite was to the left hand. It was given by an Amazon. It traveled up my finger 1" an hour and I was hospitalized for emergency surgery. After 4 days of intense medications, they couldn't get the infection under control and were preparing to amputate up to my left elbow. Then, the CDC in Atlanta, GA came up with some mixture of meds that killed the bacteria.

Umbrella Cockatoo bit the top of my right hand. This time the infection dug in but moved slower, only 2" a day. By day 6 it was up to my elbow with no signs of slowing. Again, preparations began for amputation this time at the shoulder. When, again, they contacted the CDC and once again saved my limb.

Since these events, I've escaped amputation 4 more times. I no longer take chances with birds that I'd hoped could be worked with and tamed. I have developed a sensitivity to this condition and cannot afford to put myself at risk.

EVERY time you get a bite or scratch from your birds, immediately scrub it with antibacterial soap and water, and put Neosporin Ointment and a band aid on it. Change the band aid as needed. If unusual swelling, redness and heat start at the site of the bite, then see your doctor or Emergency Room IMMEDIATELY.

Mary Bradford