Bite and Scratch Infections

The animal that bites or scratches points to the germ and the antibiotic

D/C — **Dog or cat bite (cellulitis)**
Pasteurella multocida and Staphylococcus aureus · amoxicillin-clavulanate

ASP — **Dog bite in an asplenic patient**
Capnocytophaga canimorsus · can cause fulminant sepsis

RAT — **Rat bite (fever)**
Streptobacillus moniliformis, Spirillum minus

CAT — **Cat scratch**
Bartonella henselae: cat scratch disease, with lymphadenopathy

HUM — **Human bite**
Eikenella corrodens (and oral anaerobes)

First choice
Amoxicillin- clavulanate

Wound care
Irrigate well · consider delayed closure

Always check
Tetanus and rabies prophylaxis

Cat bites become infected more often because they are puncture wounds · hand wounds and wounds seen late carry special risk