

Dog bite infection costs Canadian her arm, legs

July 22 2013

A rare infection resulting from a dog bite cost an Ottawa woman her left arm and both legs, a Canadian newspaper said Monday.

Christine Caron, 49, a single mother of four, was reportedly playing tug-o-war with her three-year-old Shih Tzu, named Buster, when the dog accidentally "nicked" one of her knuckles while attempting to get a better grip on the rope.

Her three other dogs came over and licked the wound.

"It didn't seem like a big deal," she told the daily Ottawa Citizen.

Days later she fell into a coma, and when she awoke in hospital six weeks later doctors told her they would have to amputate three of her limbs after the infection spread.

The *Capnocytophaga canimorsus* [bacteria](#) responsible for the infection is commonly found in dog [saliva](#), but rarely leads to infection in humans.

According to the Public Health Agency of Canada, only 200 human cases have been reported worldwide since 1976.

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