



WHAT TO DO ABOUT BATS

_____ Animal Services **does not** provide a bat removal service for buildings in which bat colonies are roosting. Animal Control only responds in cases of possible rabies exposure as a result of human/bat contact. In these cases, Animal Control will respond to the scene and impound the individual bat involved for testing purposes.

WHAT IS "POSSIBLE RABIES EXPOSURE?"

According to the Center for Disease Control in Atlanta, rabies exposure occurs only when a person is bitten or scratched by a potentially rabid animal, or when abrasions, open wounds, or mucous membranes are contaminated with the saliva, brain, or nervous system tissue of a potentially rabid animal. Touching such an animal, or contact with its urine or feces does **not** constitute an exposure.

A BAT IN A BUILDING

- bats will generally leave a building on their own, given the chance
- if you find a bat in a room, do not try to catch it (unless testing is necessary because a person or pet has been sleeping in the room while the bat was present)
- to encourage a bat to leave on its own, open windows, turn the lights **on**, and leave the room, closing the door behind you and keeping children and pets out of the area
- check the area every few hours to see if the bat has departed—it may take up to 18 hours for a bat to leave a resting place
- if you **MUST** remove a resting bat from a room immediately (because there is no way to avoid contact with people or pets), put on thick leather gloves and carefully place a wide-mouthed cup, jar, or coffee can over the resting bat, slip a piece of cardboard between the opening and the resting surface, then take the container outdoors to release the bat
- **NEVER HANDLE A BAT—ALIVE OR DEAD—WITH YOUR BARE HANDS**

SICK OR INJURED BATS

- may released to rehabbers holding state permits except that one which has been or may have been in contact with a person or pet, must be released **only** to _____ or to an Animal Control Officer
- **KEEP PEOPLE AND PETS AWAY FROM THE BAT AND CALL ANIMAL CONTROL AT _____ (AFTER HOURS CALL _____)**

DEAD BATS

- there is no danger of rabies from a dead bat if it is not handled
- if the bat is in an isolated area where contact with people is unlikely, you can simply pick it up carefully with a thick piece of newspaper, or scoop it up in a coffee can or other container, put it in a bag, and place it in the trash
- **IF THE BAT IS IN AN AREA WHERE IT MAY HAVE COME IN CONTACT WITH A PERSON OR PET, CALL ANIMAL CONTROL AT _____**

IF SOMEONE IS BITTEN BY A BAT

- **CALL ANIMAL CONTROL IMMEDIATELY AT _____ TO REPORT THE INCIDENT, AND ADMINISTER FIRST AID TO THE VICTIM**
- if safely possible, confine or try to keep track of the bat until Animal Control arrives to capture it for testing
- Animal Control will need the name, address, and phone number of the victim and the victim's personal physician; the address where the incident occurred; and information on how and where the person was bitten
- the victim should contact his or her personal physician as soon as possible, and inform Animal Control of physician's response
- the victim's personal physician will determine whether or not to initiate rabies post-exposure treatment pending the results of the test

IF YOUR PET CATCHES OR KILLS A BAT

- confine the bat and call Animal Control at _____ for further instructions
- confine the pet, preventing contact with persons or animals outside the family until test results are received

IF BATS HAVE TAKEN UP RESIDENCE

If bats are roosting in an attic or similar area, a one-way exit can be constructed which allows them to leave in search of food, but will prevent their re-entry. Many pest control professionals can help you with this problem, and Bat Conservation International can provide you with information on how to evict bats yourself. **Do not use one-way exits during June and July or flightless young may be trapped inside!**

For more information, contact:

"Name of Your Animal Control Agency" Agency Phone #

Bat Conservation International

512-327-9721

www.batcon.org