



If you see a bat outside your home

Avoid contact with all bats, especially if they are sick or dead on the ground. If you find a grounded bat, quickly move it away from people and animals.

To move the bat, cover it with a pail, a box, or a similar container. Place a heavy object like a brick or rock on top to secure it. Call your local health department to discuss the need for testing. If you cannot isolate the bat, call your local health department for assistance.

Local Health Department

Daytime Telephone

After-Hours Telephone

Learn how to catch a bat SAFELY:
health.ny.gov/Rabies

Bat Awareness TIPS

Did you know that

- Bats may be helpful to humans by eating many flying insects considered to be pests, like mosquitoes. But some bats are infected with rabies.
- Most human rabies deaths in the United States are from bat rabies.
- People and animals can get rabies if exposed to a rabid bat.
- Physical contact with a bat exposes you to rabies. For example, if they bite you, or their saliva contacts your eyes, nose, mouth, or an open wound.
- In some cases, a bat bite could go unnoticed. For example, when a bat is found in a room with a sleeping person, or a bat is found next to an unattended child.



What to do if you find a bat in your home

- Is there any chance that the bat had contact with a person or a pet? If so, the bat should be captured and tested for rabies. If the bat cannot be captured, call your local health department for advice on what to do.
- Are you sure there was no contact with a person or a pet? For example, did you see the bat come into the house and never lost sight of it? If so, close the room's inside doors and closet doors. Open the windows or doors leading to the outdoors, and watch the bat until it leaves.

Rabies post-exposure treatment should be considered if the bat

- is found to be rabid
- is not available for testing

AND

- you know the bat had physical contact with a person
- or*
- there was a good chance an exposure went unnoticed. For example, a bat is found in the room – or a bat found on the ground next to:
 - an unattended child
 - a person who is sleeping
 - a person who is drunk or high on drugs
 - a person with other sensory or mental impairment.

To capture a bat

- Turn on room lights and close the windows.
- Close the room's entry and closet doors.
- Wait for the bat to land.
- Put on gloves. Place a pail, a box or another container over the bat.
- Slide a piece of cardboard under the container to trap the bat.
- Firmly hold the cardboard in place against the top of the container. Turn the container right side up and tape the cardboard tightly to the container.

After the bat is captured

- Was there any chance that contact with a person or pet took place? Are you not sure? If so, **DO NOT** release the bat. Call your local health department to find out if the bat should be tested for rabies.
- Was there no chance of contact or exposure with a person or a pet? If so, take the covered container outside. Release the bat, preferably at night, away from areas where people live.

