

HOW TO DEAL WITH A BAT IN YOUR HOME

Sometimes a bat accidentally makes its way into your home. If a bat is flying around your room, leave the room and close the door until the bat has landed.

If the bat appears uninjured, encourage the bat to leave on its own with the following steps:

1. Confine the bat to one room (close interior doors to isolate)
2. Enter the room when the bat has stopped flying
3. Open an exterior door or the window (remove screen, and pull back curtains)
4. Turn off the lights and cover any other light sources such as digital clocks, TVs, computer, etc.

The bat should fly out of the room through the open door or window when evening arrives. You can also turn outside lights on, to help attract bugs that will make it more tempting for the bat to leave the house.

If the bat appears sick, injured, or is unable to fly, you can bring it to Ohio Wildlife Center's hospital. Be sure to wear gloves and approach the animal with caution. Do not attempt to evict/release any bats in cold weather! If bats are found in a structure during cold weather spells and must be removed, they must be brought into Ohio Wildlife Center's hospital. As a general guideline, if temperatures are 60°F or above for multiple days, bats can be released outside.

Do bats carry rabies?

Yes, bats can carry rabies, but it is not common. Rabies is a viral disease (transmitted through bites) affecting the nervous system. It has the ability to infect all mammals. Most human cases result from rabid bat bites, but statistically, fewer than 4% of bats test positive for rabies in Ohio (www.odh.ohio.gov). You should never handle a bat unless you need to. If you must approach a bat, please exercise caution. You cannot tell just by looking if an animal has rabies; the animal must be submitted for testing to confirm infection.

If a bat is found in a room with a sleeping person, unattended child, mentally disabled person, or someone under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol it is recommended that a family doctor be contacted and post-exposure rabies prophylaxis be started in most

cases. Also, if the bat is able to be caught, it should be submitted for rabies testing to confirm or deny presence of rabies. In these circumstances, the bat may be admitted to Ohio Wildlife Center's hospital for humane euthanasia.

<http://www.ohiowildlifecenter.org/dnn/Whatwedo/WildlifeHospital.aspx>

Source of information: Ohio Wildlife Center