

Bat Encounters

WHY SHOULD I CARE ABOUT A BAT?

- Bats may carry rabies.
- Rabies is a fatal viral disease affecting warm blooded mammals including humans.
- Exposure to rabies may be reduced by removing stray dogs and cats, having all pets vaccinated and staying away from all wild animals especially those acting strangely.

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I ENCOUNTER A BAT?

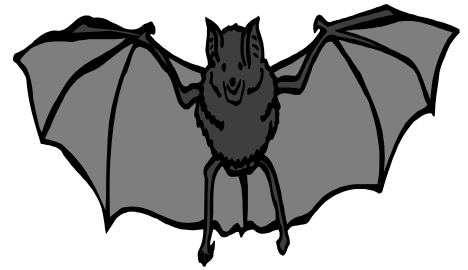
FIGURE OUT IF AN ENCOUNTER HAS OCCURRED.

- Has a human or family pet had any contact with the bat?
- Did a bite, scratch, or direct contact happen?
- Did the bat come near an unattended young child, or a sleeping or impaired person, or was in a room with an unattended pet?

Capture the Bat!!!

IF THERE WAS NO CONTACT WITH THE BAT?

- If **there was no possibility of human or domestic animal contact** with the bat, it can be allowed to leave on its own, or if it is in your home, it can be released.
- Close the room and closet doors, open windows.
- Turn on lights and observe the bat until it leaves.
- If the bat does not leave, wait for it to land and , while wearing gloves, cover it with a coffee can or similar container. Slide a piece of cardboard under the can trapping the bat. Tape the cardboard tightly to the can.
- **If you are certain there was no contact while capturing the bat**, release it out-of-doors, away from populated areas and preferably after dark.



HOW DO I CAPTURE THE BAT?

- Avoid direct contact! Do not squash the bat. Brain tissue is needed for testing.
 - Close windows, the room, and closet doors.
 - Turn on lights if the room is dark, and wait for the bat to land.
 - Wearing gloves, cover the bat with a coffee can or similar container.
 - Slide a piece of cardboard under the can trapping the bat.
 - Tape the cardboard tightly to the can.
 - Immediately, call your local Health Department to arrange for the bat to be tested for rabies.
 - The Health Department staff can also tell you what else you may need to do.
- PROMPT TREATMENT IS CRITICAL AFTER AN EXPOSURE!!**

For more information call:

**CLINTON COUNTY HEALTH
DEPARTMENT
(518) 565-4870**

BAT CAPTURE KIT

- Gloves (heavy, preferably pliable thick leather)
- Forceps (9" - 12" length, rat-tooth for gripping)
- Extension pole with net) fine mesh insect net of polyester or muslin material with a spring steel hoop on telescoping pole—net and pole sold separately.
- Coffee can with tight-fitting lid or similar container (I.e., cardboard ice cream container with lid; keep multiple containers on hand).
- Sheet of cardboard to slide between wall and container to act as a lid.
- Tape (to secure lid on container).
- Flashlights (including fresh batteries and extra batteries)
- General Guidelines for Management of Bat-Related Incidents (for display, guidelines should be double-sided, laminated and hung on lanyard/string)

To obtain some of the items listed above, the following types of vendors are suggested:

Hardware store/home and garden center
(gloves, extension pole, flashlight, batteries, tape)

Medical supply company
(forceps)

Forestry supply company
(fine mesh insect net)