

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.

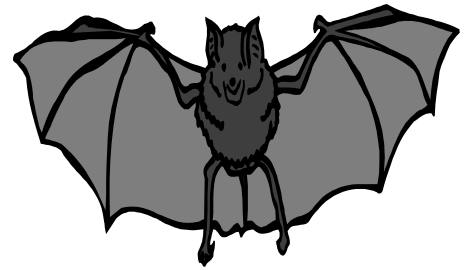
- Has a human or family pet had any contact with the bat?
- Did a bite, scratch, or direct contact happen?
- Did the bat come near an unattended young child, or a sleeping or impaired person, or was in a room with an unattended pet?

**IF ANY OF THE ABOVE HAPPENS
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)