



Use caution when dealing with bats.

While bats are a non-aggressive species, encountering one in your living environment is alarming and unsettling.

It is not recommended that residents attempt to catch, release, or kill bats or any wildlife.

Residents should contact Animal Care & Control, their local police department, or private removal services. In certain situations or “exposures” it may be beneficial to have the bat tested for rabies.

**Animal Care & Control:
(847) 377-4700**

Animal Care & Control

18736 West Peterson Road
Libertyville, IL 60048
Phone: (847) 377-4700

Hours:

Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Saturday 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Sunday closed

Communicable Disease

3010 Grand Avenue
Waukegan, IL 60085
Phone: (847) 377-8130
Fax: (847) 984-5680

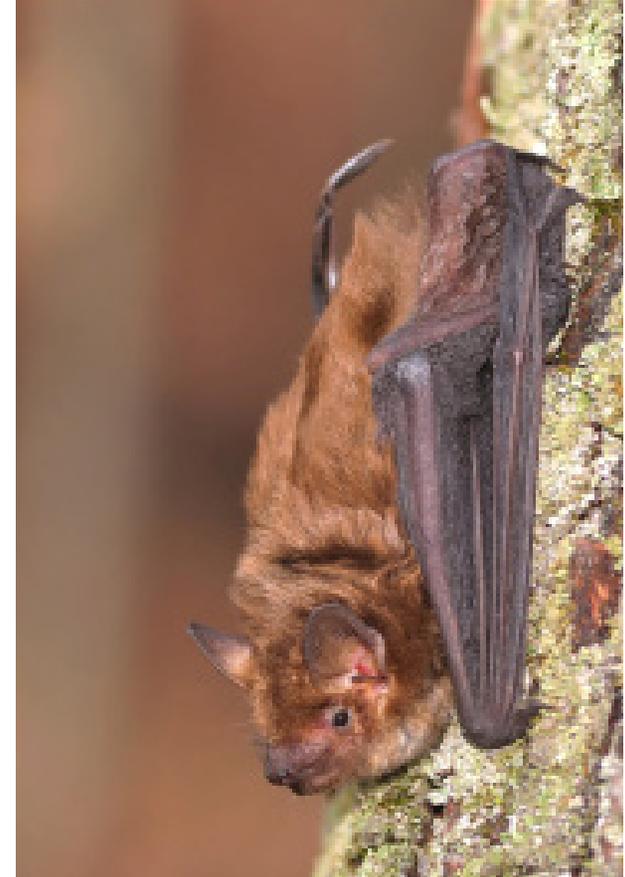
Hours:

Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Saturday and Sunday closed

In case of emergency, Animal Care & Control and Communicable Disease staff are on call 24/7 at the numbers listed above.

Lake County Health Department and Community Health Center

3010 Grand Avenue
Waukegan, IL 60085
Phone: (847) 377 8000
Web: health.lakecountyil.gov



BATS IN YOUR LIVING SPACE

*Keeping your family, pets, and
community safe from rabies*



The below exposures (A – E) meet the criteria for testing of the bat.

- A. A person was **bitten** by a bat.
- B. A person was **asleep** and woke up to a bat in their room.
- C. A person was **in a room alone** with the bat and is not able to state if an exposure occurred (small child, person with dementia, person impaired by drugs or alcohol).
- D. A person had **bare skin contact** with the bat and cannot be sure if they were bitten.
- E. Domestic mammal exposures (e.g., cats, dogs, ferrets, etc.). If any such animal had **physical contact** with a bat or was unobserved in an area where a bat was present, the bat can also be sent for rabies testing.

If no exposure occurred, the bat does not need to be tested. If in doubt, call Animal Care & Control.

Handling Bats

Bats are protected species and should only be handled by Animal Control professionals. If you find a bat in your home, call Animal Care & Control immediately.

A bat may be covered with a small box, bucket, or coffee can with a weighted object on top. You may also close the doors or windows to the room where it was found and block the bottom of the door with a rolled towel.

If bats have been found inside of your home on more than one occasion, contact a bat control professional in your area. A list of licensed contractors can be found at wildlifeillinois.org/class-a-operators.

Can't Find the Bat (or Bats)?

You saw a bat flying around but now you can't find it. Bats are easily able to hide in extremely small spaces.

- Do not sleep in the room where the bat was last seen to prevent additional exposures.
- Prior to going to bed, check your sleeping area for bats. If able, close your bedroom doors at night and place a rolled towel at the bottom to reduce your risk of additional exposures.
- Small children and pets should not be left alone/unattended in the home until the bat is located to minimize any risk to exposure to the missing bat.

Rabies Post Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP)

Your local health department or medical provider will need to consult with you on the need for rabies PEP. Rabies is an infectious viral disease which is almost always fatal, therefore recommendations for rabies PEP are conservative.

Rabies PEP consist of a series of injections given over a two-week period. Having a bat available to test (specifically for A-D exposures), can eliminate the need for expensive rabies PEP.

Rabies PEP is given through Hospital Emergency Rooms in Lake County. Few Doctors offices carry rabies PEP.

If an exposure such as A-D occurred, and the bat cannot be tested due to reasons such as the bat was released; cannot be located; or the specimen is of poor quality then rabies PEP would be recommended.

Have you been exposed to a bat in your home? Contact Animal Care & Control at (847) 377-4700.