

# Bats



According to the CDC, “Rabid bats have been documented in all 49 continental states. Hawaii is rabies-free. Bats are increasingly implicated as important wildlife reservoirs for variants of rabies virus transmitted to humans.

Recent data suggest that transmission of rabies virus can occur from minor, seemingly unimportant, or unrecognized bites from bats. Human and domestic animal contact with bats should be minimized, and bats should never be handled by untrained and unvaccinated persons or be kept as pets.

In all instances of potential human exposures involving bats, the bat in question should be safely collected, if possible, and submitted for rabies diagnosis. Rabies postexposure prophylaxis is recommended for all persons with bite, scratch, or mucous membrane exposure to a bat, unless the bat is available for testing and is negative for evidence of rabies.”

Residents who discover a live bat in their home, should protect themselves from potential exposure by leaving the premises, unless the bat is contained in a room by a closed door. Do not let the bat free in case testing for rabies becomes necessary. Contact the Police Department at 201-337-6171. The Police Department will contact Animal Control who will decide whether the bat needs to be tested.