



If a bat is found inside a home and an exposure is suspected, it is important to get the bat tested due to the risk of rabies. Rabies can only be confirmed by laboratory testing. Most people know when they've been bitten. However, exposure can occur without an individual knowing they've been scratched or bitten, especially with bats. Bats have small teeth and tiny claws, making it difficult for an exposure to be detected. A bat found in a room with a sleeping person, unattended child, or a mentally impaired or intoxicated person is considered an exposure.

The Shiawassee County Health Department recommends:

LIVE BAT FOUND IN A HOME - HOW TO HANDLE/CATCH A BAT

- Wear leather gloves. A bat should never be handled with bare hands.
- Place a clear container over the bat.
- Slide a piece of sturdy cardboard under the container.
- Firmly secure the cardboard or the lid to the container with tape.
- **During Business Hours** – Call the Animal Control Officer (989-743-3411). Animal Control hours are M-F 8 am-4 pm.
- **When Animal Control is Not Available**
 - **Option 1**
 - Contact a veterinarian to arrange for bat to be euthanized. Resident will be responsible for the veterinarian costs. Then, contact the Health Department to arrange for the dead bat be dropped off. Bat will be submitted to lab for testing.
 - **Important Note – SCHED will only accept dead bats in clear containers or clear plastic bags.**
 - **Option 2**
 - Contact MSU Small Animal Clinic (517) 333-8063 to arrange for drop off for testing. MSU Small Animal Clinic will accept live bats.

DEAD BAT FOUND IN A HOME

- Do not crush the bat
- Do not put the bat in the freezer
- Contact the Shiawassee County Health Department at 989-743-2356.
- Dead bats must be brought to the Health Department in a clear container or a clear plastic baggie.
- **Important Note – SCHED will only accept dead bats in clear containers or clear plastic bags.**
- If Health Department is closed, keep bat refrigerated until you can contact the Health Department.

PET EXPOSURE

If a pet has been exposed, it is important to capture the bat and submit it for testing.

Make sure your pets are up-to-date on their rabies vaccines.