

**UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SAFETY
POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

SECTION: ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

SUBJECT: BATS ON CAMPUS

Bats, by consuming large quantities of flying insects, are a positive influence on the environment; however, they are one of the most common carriers of rabies. During the spring and fall migration, it is more common to see bats on the ground, hanging in shrubs around our homes, and sometimes inside our homes. Simply seeing a bat does not mean it is rabid but there is a higher probability if these nocturnal creatures are seen during daylight hours.

What to do if you find a bat inside or outside your building

If you find a bat, alive or dead, immediately cover it with a net, can, or other container. **DO NOT TOUCH THE BAT.** Call the **Bureau of Animal Regulation and Care (BARC) at 713-229-7300 to pick it up.** If unable to cover the bat, leave the laboratory, office or room and call the **Bureau of Animal Regulation and Care (BARC) at 713-229-7300 to pick it up.**

You may also call the **University's Customer Service Line FIXIT (3-4948).**

If you see a bat hanging in a shrub or other place near the ground do not touch it. Call BARC for instructions as to what to do until BARC can send an animal control officer to pick up the bat. **Someone must remain available to meet the animal control officer.**

If you find a bat in your laboratory, office or rooms do not attempt to catch the bat or remove it from your premises, call BARC. BARC will send an animal control officer to remove the bat from your premises. Secure the room by closing all windows and doors to prevent the bat's escape, then leave the room; keep everyone, including children and pets out of the room until the bat has been removed. If the bat should come in contact with any person, please write down the name, address and telephone number of that person for the animal control officer. **Someone must remain available to meet the animal control officer.**

Should any bat test positive for rabies, it will be necessary for BARC to contact all persons who may have come into contact with the bat to assess the risk of exposure. If it is determined a person has a high risk of exposure, it will be necessary for their physician to assess whether treatment is necessary.

For post exposure treatment information, please call Texas Department of State Health Services Region 6/7 at 713-767-3300.

Never ever touch a bat, call BARC AT 713-229-7300! More information:
<http://www.houstontx.gov/barc/index.php>

Please provide the following information to BARC:

- **If any human contact occurred with the bat**
- **Time of day and location bat**
- **Color of bat**
- **Whether the bat is living or dead**
- **If anyone was either asleep or intoxicated where the bat was found**
- **If any small children or elderly people were present where the bat was found**

For information regarding rabies, please review the following document from the Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:

<http://www.houstontx.gov/barc/pdfs/rabies.pdf>