

# WHAT TO KNOW ABOUT BATS & RABIES



## » BATS CAN HAVE RABIES.

- Avoid touching bats.
- Teach children to never touch bats.
- Keep bats out of your home.

### What is rabies?

- Rabies is a **disease** caused by a virus.
- Rabies **almost always causes death** if left untreated.
- Rabies is **100% preventable** with prompt medical care.

### How does rabies spread?

- Any **warm-blooded animal** can get rabies.
- Rabies is spread through contact with saliva from infected animals. **People most often get rabies from animal bites.**
- **Bats are the only animals** that regularly test positive for rabies in Washington state.

### Facts about bats and rabies

- **Most bats do not have rabies.** However, bats infected with rabies are found in Washington every year.
- **Encounters between bats and people increase** when the weather warms up in spring and summer.
- **You cannot tell if a bat has rabies just by looking at it.** Testing is needed to confirm if a bat has rabies.

### PREVENT RABIES EXPOSURE

*Avoiding contact with bats is the best way to prevent being exposed to rabies. Enjoy wildlife from a distance!*



**Do not touch wild animals,** including bats.

**Teach children to never touch bats** and to tell an adult if they find a bat.



**Keep bats out of your home** by adding screens to windows and doors and sealing small openings.

**Vaccinate your pets.**

### IF YOU HAVE CONTACT WITH A BAT

*Follow these steps if someone has had contact with a bat, or might have had contact with a bat:*



**Attempt to safely capture the bat** for testing if possible.

**Wash bite or scratch areas** with soap and water.

**Call your healthcare provider** and/or Kitsap Public Health District at 360-728-2235.



**If your pet has had contact** with a bat, call your veterinarian.

**LEARN MORE:** [kitsappublichealth.org/bats](http://kitsappublichealth.org/bats) | [doh.wa.gov/rabies](http://doh.wa.gov/rabies) | [cdc.gov/rabies](http://cdc.gov/rabies)