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Bats and rabies

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Bats and Rabies



CDC Reports: Most bats do not have rabies, but among the human rabies infections recently reported in the US, 70% were related to bat exposures.



There are 14 bat species that call South Carolina home. Visit dnr.sc.gov/wildlife/bats to learn more.



Caution!

A bat that is active by day, found where bats are not usually seen, or is unable to fly may be rabid.

Do not handle with bare hands!

Visit scdhec.gov/bats to learn how to safely capture a bat.



Bats are generally nocturnal animals that prefer to roost during the day in isolated, naturally occurring crevices of caves, cliffs, and tree hollows, but they can also be found in attics, roofs, walls, unfrequented buildings, etc.

Because bats have small teeth, people, especially children, may not realize when they have been bitten by a bat.



Bat contact/exposure should be considered when:

- You wake up to find a bat in a room.
- A bat is found where children, pets, or persons with impaired mental capacity (intoxicated or mentally disabled) have been left unattended.
- A pet or person has been in direct contact with a bat.

Steps to Prevent Bats from Entering a Building

Take these steps to minimize potential rabies exposures from bats in your home or property, including vacation rentals and part-time residences:

1. Contact a local Wildlife Control Operator to inspect your home. Visit dnr.sc.gov/wildlife/control.html to find your nearest Wildlife Control Operator.
2. Carefully examine your home for holes, and seal any openings larger than a quarter inch.
3. Seal electrical and plumbing holes.
4. Ensure all doors to the outside close tightly.
5. Cover outside entry points in attics and buildings.
6. Consider sealing each gap created by the barrel shape of terracotta roofing tiles.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

- Visit cdc.gov/rabies/bats/management for tips on how to prevent bats from entering your property.
- Contact information for your local Environmental Affairs office is available at scdhec.gov/EAoffices.
- For more information on rabies, visit scdhec.gov/rabies or cdc.gov/rabies.