

What to do if You Find a Dead Bat or a Bat Behaving Abnormally



Never touch a sick or dead bat unless instructed to do so or if you need to move it.

Never handle a bat --healthy, sick or dead-- with bare hands! **USE GLOVES!!**



Report sick or dead bats to ADF&G immediately and wait for further instructions. To make a report:

1. Contact the Wildlife Disease Surveillance Message line:
Phone: 907-328-8354 or **Email: dfg.dwc.vet@alaska.gov**
2. Complete the online Bat Observation Form (www.akcitizenscience.net)

How to Collect a Dead Bat

- Use disposable gloves to place bat in a Ziploc bag
- (No gloves? Turn the bag inside out and use to pick up the bat)
- Seal the Ziploc bag, place and seal inside 2nd Ziploc bag
- Complete a [Specimen Submission form](#) and place it in 2nd bag (Forms available at www.ak.citizenscience.net or your local ADF&G office)
- Label bag with date, location, and your contact information.
- If the carcass is fresh, chill the bat, but do NOT freeze it.

How to Collect a Sick Bat

- Wear leather gloves!
- Place the bat in a small box or plastic container for transport.
- Complete a [Specimen Submission form](#) and bring it with the bat. (Forms available at www.akcitizenscience.net or your local ADF&G office)

Why is it so important to report dead bats?

- [White-nose Syndrome](#) (WNS) is a fungal disease that has killed millions of bats in the eastern half of North America.
- WNS was first detected in the West in 2016, when hikers in Washington state collected a sick bat that tested positive for the disease.
- Testing dead bats may be the only way to detect WNS in AK!

Tell me about rabies in Alaska Bats!

- [Rabies](#) is not common in Alaskan bats.
- Since the 1970s, only 5 bats have tested positive for rabies in Alaska.
- All of the infected bats were found in Southeast Alaska.
- Bats with rabies will act strangely: flying slowly, bumping into things, or even unable to fly. Young bats can act this way also.

What happens to the bat that I collected?

- Carcasses are tested for diseases and pathogens.
- Fresh bat carcasses (chilled, not frozen), are especially valuable.
- After the necropsy the carcasses are sent to the University of Alaska Museum and are available for scientific research.
- Most museum bats were turned in by members of the public.
- **Thank you for taking the time to report dead bats to us!**

Use your QR reader on your smart phone for more information!

- A) Closest ADF&G office contact**
- B) Sick or dead bat webpage**
- C) Online Bat Report Form**

Or visit www.akcitizenscience.net for more information



Source: ADF&G



What to do if You Find a Live Bat or Have Bats on your Property



Never touch a bat unless instructed to do so or if you need to move it.
Never touch a bat with bare hands! **USE GLOVES!!**



Bats are good for the ecosystem!

- The most common bat in Alaska is the Little Brown Bat.
- Bats in Alaska eat bugs, up to 5,000 mosquito-sized insects in a night.
- Bats are cool! They are the only mammal that can fly.

- Little Brown Bats can live longer than 30 years.
- There are over 1,300 species found on 6 continents.
- 7 bat species are found in AK.
- For more information visit:
www.akcitizenscience.net



Bats are in trouble!

- Bats are misunderstood, feared and disliked by some people.
 - White-nose Syndrome (WNS), a disease caused by a cold-loving fungus that grows on hibernating bats, has recently spread to the West.
 - WNS has killed > 6 million bats since 2006.
 - Bat populations are also diminishing due to loss of habitat, disturbances to roosts, and the development of wind farms.
- www.whitenosesyndrome.org

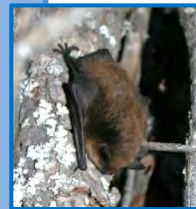


Source: J. Reimer

I have bats in my attic (or other structure); What should I do?

Trying to get rid of your bats?

- Exclusion is challenging – for ideas, contact the Alaska Center for Conservation Science (ACCS) at:
accs.uaa.alaska.edu/zoology/bat-research
- Like your bats?
ACCS initiated a roost monitoring project in 2016. To join the maternity monitoring network go to:
accs.uaa.alaska.edu/zoology/bat-roost-monitoring/
- Build a bat house! Instructions available at: www.batcon.org



Source: J. Reimer

I found a bat on the ground and it looks healthy; what do I do to help it?

- Wear leather gloves and pick it up in a small container
- Place out of reach of children, pets, and predators
- If found near a known roost, place it in/near the roost, otherwise place it high off the ground, in a tree or on a railing.
- Tip the container gently to slide the bat out or set it on its side.
- If the bat looks sick see the reverse side of this flyer.
- **Report your bat observation at www.akcitizenscience.net.**

If You Find a Dead Bat or a Bat Behaving Abnormally Please See the Reverse Side!