

Bats

Although most bats do not have rabies, bats are still the number one carrier of rabies. Rabies is a virus that affects people and animals, and can cause serious illness and sometimes death. Rabies in humans is rare in the United States. There are usually only one or two human cases per year. But the most common source of human rabies in the United States is from bats. For example, among the 19 naturally acquired cases of rabies in humans in the United States from 1997-2006, 17 were associated with bats. Among these, 14 patients had known encounters with bats. Four people awoke because a bat landed on them and one person awoke because a bat bit him. In these cases, the bat was inside the home. If you suspect a person or domestic animal has been exposed to a bat, notify your local animal control agency immediately. Never touch a bat with your bare hands!

In areas serviced by the Mission Viejo Animal Services Center, we will respond to and remove any bat that is injured, sick or deceased. Or, involved in a bite with a human or domestic animal.



When bats are located on your property:

- Never touch or pick up a bat with bare hands, even if it appears dead.
- Have all domestic animals in your care currently vaccinated for rabies.
- Immediately notify your local animal control agency if you suspect exposure to a human or domestic animal.
- Bat-proof all dwellings to deny access.



Mission Viejo Animal Services Center

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Serving the cities of:
Mission Viejo, Laguna Niguel, Aliso Viejo,
Laguna Hills, and Rancho Santa Margarita

