



Bats

Bats, being the only mammals able to fly are beneficial to the ecosystem as pollinators, seed dispersers and insect predators.

Bats leave their roost at dusk and will hunt throughout the night until dawn. They navigate and find food in the dark by sending out sound waves and listening for them to bounce back. They generally seek out areas that are dark, quiet, and well ventilated during the day. If you spot a bat acting abnormally during daylight hours, contact your local animal control agency.

Bat proofing your home is your best defense against bats, they can fit into surprisingly small spaces and openings. Simply applying caulking or sealant for small openings and using netting for larger spaces denies them access into your home. Close up all outside openings in roofs, walls, and floors larger than 3/8" of an inch. Make sure that all windows have screens without holes.

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. Make sure that all domestic animals in your care are currently vaccinated for rabies. Rabies in humans is rare in the United States. There are usually only one or two human cases per year. However, the most common source of human rabies in the United States is from bats.

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, even if it appears dead.

In areas serviced by 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.



MISSION VIEJO
ANIMAL SERVICES

**Serving the cities of Mission Viejo, Laguna Niguel,
Aliso Viejo, Laguna Hills & Rancho Santa Margarita
28095 Hillcrest
Mission Viejo CA 92692
(949) 470-3045
cmvas.org**