

Help! There's a Bat in My House!

Guidance for Bat/Wild Animal Exposures



HEALTH DIVISION

OAKGOV.COM/HEALTH



Overview of Information

- How to safely catch a bat
- What to do if bitten by an animal
- Rabies prevention
- What is rabies?
- How is rabies transmitted?
- References

If You Find a Bat in Your Home

DO NOT LET THE BAT GO!

Watch

“How to Safely Catch a Bat”

Call Oakland County Animal Control (OCAC) to pick up the bat after it has been safely caught as described in the above video. If you are unable to catch the bat yourself, call a critter control agency for assistance. OCAC cannot catch bats in a home.

(248) 858-1090 (24hr/7days)

If Bitten by an Animal

- If you are bitten by a wild animal or seriously injured by a domestic animal

GO TO AN EMERGENCY ROOM OR URGENT CARE IMMEDIATELY

- Wound care will be given
- Tetanus vaccination status will be reviewed
- Need for rabies treatment will be evaluated

Rabies Prevention

- Keep pets (dogs, cats, ferrets) up-to-date on rabies vaccinations
- Stay away from wild or unfamiliar animals
- Report ill appearing wild animals to OCAC
(248) 858-1090 (24hr/7days)

What is Rabies?

- A disease caused by the rabies virus in mammals
- Affects the brain and nervous system
- Symptoms include:
 - Agitation
 - Difficulty Swallowing
 - Hydrophobia (fear of water)
 - Confusion
 - Paralysis
 - **Fatal without Treatment**

How is Rabies Transmitted?

- Contact with the **saliva** (bite, scratch or lick) of an infected animal
- Wild animals with potential to carry rabies:
 - Bats (most frequently reported rabid animal in Oakland County)
 - Skunks
 - Raccoons
 - Foxes

References

- [Oakland County Fact Sheet](#)
- Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
www.michigan.gov/rabies
- Centers for Disease Control (CDC)
www.cdc.gov/rabies

If You Have Questions

Oakland County Animal Control
(248) 858-1090

Oakland County Health Division
Communicable Disease Unit

8:30 AM to 5:00 PM

Monday - Friday

248-858-1286



North
Oakland Health Center
1200 N. Telegraph Rd
Pontiac, MI 48341
Phone: 248.858.1280

South
Oakland Health Center
27725 Greenfield Rd
Southfield, MI 48076
Phone: 248.424.7000

NURSE ON CALL PUBLIC HEALTH INFORMATION
800.848.5533 NOC@OAKGOV.COM

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