



Flathead City-County Health Department

1035 First Ave. West Kalispell, MT 59901
(406) 751-8101 FAX 751-8102
www.flatheadhealth.org

Community Health Services
751-8110 FAX 751-8111
Environmental Health Services
751-8130 FAX 751-8131
Family Planning Services
751-8150 FAX 751-8151
Home Health Services
751-6800 FAX 751-6807
WIC Services
751-8170 FAX 751-8171
Animal Shelter
752-1310 FAX 752-1546

INSTRUCTIONS FOR CATCHING/EUTHANIZING A BAT

- **DO NOT smash the bat's head** – the brain must be intact for the rabies test to be done.
- Wear heavy gloves and cover your skin with durable fabric pants and shirt or coat.
- Wait for bat to land; carefully place a CLEAR plastic container (for which you have a tight fitting lid) over the bat against a wall or floor. Slide a file folder or light cardboard between the wall and the container to trap the bat. Once you have the bat in the container with the bottom of the container on a flat surface, place the lid to the container, then slide file folder/light cardboard and seal lid with tape. Bring it outside – where there is plenty of ventilation.
- Puncture a SMALL hole in the lid. Using engine starter fluid with ether, insert the included plastic tube applicator into the hole and put in 2 squirts. Then observe bat for 1-2 minutes, watching for any movement. If the bat is still moving, give another 1 or 2 squirts, and observe bat until it is motionless.
- **Call the Flathead City-County Health Department- Environmental Health at 751-8130** or Community Health at 751-8110 and make an appointment to bring in the bat. The bat must remain in the same clear plastic container and must be brought in as soon as possible. Note: If it's after hours **please refrigerate** the bat but **do not freeze it**. FCCHD will then submit the bat to the State Lab for rabies testing. A fee may be charged to cover shipping expenses.
- As soon as the test result is received, FCCHD will contact you with the result.
- NOTE: FCCHD will not handle bats in situations where there is no human or animal exposure.
 - If rabies testing is still desired, contact Animal Control dispatch at 758-5610. A \$31.50 fee for testing and a \$25.00 fee for shipping will be charged.
- For more information go to our website at flatheadhealth.org and click in health advisory

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