

BAT INFORMATION

FOR NEWTON RESIDENTS

If there is a bat in your home, here's what to expect if you call for help.



Type of contact...

Possible contact exists if a bat was close to an unattended child, a sleeping person, an impaired person or a pet.

If a person or pet had **direct contact** (bite, scratch, or other physical contact), the bat should be tested for rabies.

No possibility of contact?
Let the bat go.



Call **617-796-2100**.
Police non-emergency line to find out if an Animal Control Officer (ACO) is available.

Available ACO

Unavailable ACO

ACO will capture the bat and arrange for euthanizing (if needed) and transport to the state lab for testing.

The resident can capture the bat him/herself, call a pest control company at his/her own expense to capture it & deliver to the lab, or wait for the ACO to return. If the resident captures the bat, it should be **refrigerated** in a **clear plastic container** until the ACO is available to pick it up.

Results

Typically available within 1-2 days (except weekends & holidays).



Positive or unsatisfactory rabies results typically mean preventive rabies shots are recommended for exposed people. You will hear from a state epidemiologist about what to do next.



Negative rabies results (which occur the vast majority of the time) mean no preventive rabies shots are needed.

QUESTIONS? CALL the ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICERS AT (617) 796-2109. Health related questions may be directed to the Health Department at (617) 796-1420, or to the state epidemiologist (24/7) at 617-983-6800.