WHAT TO DO IF YOU FIND A BAT

BATS ARE PROTECTED WILDLIFE

Bats are an important part of nature. It is illegal to kill, harm, or keep a bat.

BATS CAN SPREAD RABIES

- Rabies is a fatal, but preventable, viral disease.
- It can spread through bites and scratches of an infected animal.
- Bat bites and scratches can be so small that they are not noticeable.
- People sleeping, children, or those not sure if they were bitten or scratched by a bat are considered to be exposed and should seek medical care.

IF YOU FIND A BAT

- **Inside your home, or outside that is not moving or dead:**
  - Call your local animal control to retrieve it. Animal control can coordinate rabies testing when needed.
  - Keep people and pets away from the bat. Never touch a bat with your bare hands.

IF YOU ARE BITTEN OR SCRATCHED BY AN ANIMAL, OR EXPOSED TO A BAT

- Talk to a healthcare provider as soon as possible.
  - If a person does not get the appropriate medical care right after a rabies exposure, and **before symptoms start**, the virus will move to the brain. This almost always results in death.
- You may also contact the Epidemiology Unit:
  - Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
    - Call (619) 692-8499, or email epi.hhsa@sdcounty.ca.gov.
- If your pet has been bitten or exposed to a bat or wildlife, contact your veterinarian as soon as possible.

Find your local animal control

Learn more about rabies