

# 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 necessary while waiting for animal control, slowly approach and place a box over the bat. This will keep people and animals from interacting with it.

## 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 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](mailto:epi.hhsa@sdcounty.ca.gov).
  - For urgent matters that are after-hours, call (858) 565-5255.



*Find your local  
animal control*



*Learn more  
about rabies*

