



LEAWOOD  
ANIMAL CONTROL

# Bat Information

SEPTEMBER 13, 2007

## KEY POINTS TO KNOW:

- **If you see one don't touch it!**
- **Report bat to Police Dispatch at 913-642-7700**
- **Home owners are responsible for the cost of testing.**
- **Checks are to made out to Johnson County Environmental for \$65.**
- **Colony removals need to be done by a Private Company**

## What to do when you find a bat...

If you see a bat that is on the ground or in your house, isolate the bat to that room. This can be done by closing the door and placing a towel at the bottom to fill any gap that might exist.

Bats tend to like areas that are warm, dark and if possible moist. Therefore, it is common to see bats inside the entryway outside your front door.

If the bats are too high for a human to reach or where a human can not come into contact with it, they normally do not cause an exposure.

Bats don't tend to fly around and bite people. It is usually by accidentally placing pressure on one.

Bats do not show signs of rabies like other mammals.

They can live with the virus in an infectious state and it will not display visible signs.



**The Big Brown Bat is common in Kansas.**

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) ([www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)) recommends if you think you have been bitten by a bat wash the affected area thoroughly and get medical attention immediately. Whenever possible, the bat should be captured and sent

to a laboratory for testing.

The bat inside the house or contained can be captured or removed and submitted for testing by Leawood Animal Control. Animal Control takes the bat to Johnson County Environmental and they then take the bat for testing to Kansas State University in Manhattan, KS. The test does cost the homeowner \$65. The checks need to be made out to Johnson County Environmental for that amount.

Results are sent back to Johnson County Environmental. They then call the Victim and Animal Control with the results.

If the tests are positive The Department of Health contacts the victim as well with an informational packet.

## How can you tell if a bat has Rabies?

The CDC answers this question on there webpage:

Rabies can be confirmed only in a laboratory. However, any bat that is active by day, is found in a place where bats are not usually seen (for example in rooms in your home or on the lawn), or is unable to fly, is far more likely than others to be rabid. Such

bats are often the most easily approached. Therefore, it is best never to handle any bat.

The Kansas rabies laboratory at KSU maintains an internet site with the most current rabies testing results by county and specie. The internet address is: [www.vet.ksu.edu/rabies](http://www.vet.ksu.edu/rabies).



# Yearly Cycle of a Bat



Bats like small warm tight places to spend there sleeping hours.

Little Brown Bats tend to mate in the fall, winter or spring. The females have nursing colonies where they each deliver one pup. The pups are born between May and early July.

The young are able to fly in about 4 weeks. This is why there tends to be more bat activity in the summer and fall. They also like warm places to sleep and with the cool evenings they find warmth from houses.

According to the National Audubon Society's *Field Guide to Mammals, North America*, from September, October, or early November through March or April, they hibernate in irregular clusters, some tight, some loose. They wake an average of once every two weeks dur-

ing hibernation and may fly about outdoors on warm winter nights, but without feeding.

The Little Brown Bat is the most common bat in the United States.



# Who are You Going to Call?

Animal Control will handle the calls of bats in the living quarters of a home. If you have a colony of bats the removal needs to be handled by a professional private company.

A place to start is the local yellow pages under Animal Removal, Pest Control, and possibly Birds and Bees.



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