How to safely catch a bat

Only attempt if professional assistance is unavailable

Department *of* Health & Human Services

Found a bat in your home? If a bat had physical contact with a person or pet or was found in a room with an unattended child, or a sleeping or incapacitated person, the bat should be tested for rabies. Contact your local animal control or Utah DWR for safe capture. If professional help is not available, follow these steps or scan the QR code to safely capture a bat.

1 GATHER SUPPLIES



Take a piece of cardboard and punch a few breathing holes into it. You will also need a container big enough to contain the bat.

2 PERSONAL PROTECTION



IMake sure you put on heavy and thick work gloves, so decrease your risk of a bite or scratch from the bat. Do NOT use your bare hands.

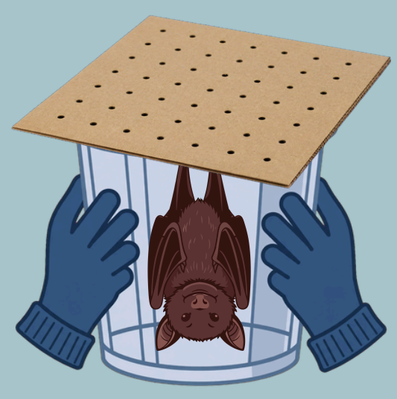
3 CAPTURE

When the bat lands and is still, approach it slowly and place a container over it. Expect this step to take a few tries.



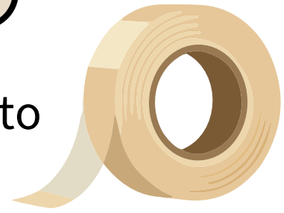


4 COVER



Slide the piece of cardboard with breathing holes under the container to trap the bat inside.

5 SECURE



Tape the cardboard lid to the container to secure the bat inside.

6 LABEL AND CONTACT



Once these steps are finished and the bat is safely secured, label the container “LIVE BAT.” Contact your loccal health department so it can be tested for rabies.

If you are unsure if an exposure occurred, use the Exposure Assessment Tool or contact your Local Health Department for guidance. If there was no exposures to the bat and it is determined that testing is not necessary, follow Utah DWR instructions for safely releasing the bat.