



Bat Capture Protocol

This guidance provides information for Facilities Maintenance personnel who are responsible for capturing or removing bats from University facilities or grounds.

Only designated individuals within Physical Plant or Fix-It who have been trained to facilitate capture of bats are allowed to perform this procedure.

Guidelines for bat capture within arms reach are as follows:

- Avoid direct skin contact with the bat
- Wear heavy, pliable thick leather gloves, long sleeve shirts and pants
- To protect contact with mucous membranes (eyes, nose, mouth) or skin contact around the head and neck, wear a face shield
- Avoid damaging the head (needed for testing)
- If possible, confine the bat to one room (close the windows, the room and closet doors)
- Turn on lights if room is dark
- Wait for the bat to land
- Cover the bat with a coffee can or similar container with a lid
- Slide a piece of cardboard under the can trapping the bat
- With one hand firmly holding the cardboard in place against the top of the can, turn the can right side up
- Replace the cardboard with the lid (if no lid, tape the cardboard tightly to the can)
- If necessary, use a net or long pole with a piece of duct tape (sticky side out) to capture bat
- Do not use glue board to capture bat (it cannot be easily removed for rabies testing)
- Gloves used in capture should be sprayed or wiped with a 1:10 bleach/water mixture or EPA registered disinfectant solution, or disposed of

Guidelines for bat capture that is not within arm's reach are as follows:

- If a bat is not within arms reach, an extension pole with a net may be used to capture the bat
- While wearing gloves (heavy, preferably pliable thick leather), slowly approach the bat with net
- Rotate the pole so that the bat is scooped into the net and the net turns in on itself containing the bat
- With a gloved hand, grab the bat through the outside of the net, slide the coffee can into the net, push the bat into the can and place the lid on the can (if no lid, tape a piece of cardboard over the can)
- If a bat has landed behind something or in a space that is too narrow to cover with a coffee can, forceps may be used to capture it. Using a gloved hand to hold the forceps, firmly but gently grasp the bat under a wing and close to its body. Place the bat in the bottom of the coffee can and release your grip on the forceps. Cover the coffee can.



Syracuse University Environmental Health and Safety Services

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Captured Bats

Captured bats that have had suspected contact with a person will be submitted to the New York State Department of Health for rabies testing and subsequent determination of appropriate medical treatment for the exposed individual. **Do not kill the bat.**

The following information must be recorded at the time of capture and accompany the bat during storage and/or transport.

- Date of capture
- Location of reported bat (i.e. Hinds Hall, Rm. 029)
- Exposed individual (if available from the on-site Public Safety Officer)

Contact EHSS (315-443-2447) during normal business hours and arrange for transport of the bat to the Onondaga County Department of Health located on Molly Road, North Syracuse.

In the event that four or more hours are needed before transportation of a captured bat for subsequent rabies testing occurs, the captured bat should be bagged in plastic and placed in the refrigerator located in Room G16, Booth Hall (Loading Dock Area). Under no circumstances should a bat be stored in the same cooler or refrigerator as food. The specimen should be kept away from potential contact with people or other animals.

If at any time an exposure occurs to the Facilities Maintenance personnel capturing the bat, the employee must contact Health Services (315-443-9005), notify his or her supervisor, and complete a Workers' Compensation Accident/Illness Report Form.