



Syracuse University Environmental Health and Safety Services

Facilities Services' Bat Capture Protocol

This guidance document provides information to assist Facilities Services staff responsible for capturing bats at the University. Facilities staff who are responsible for capturing bats must complete bat capture training prior performing bat captures.

Best efforts should always be made to safely capture the bat alive, as testing of the bat for rabies may be necessary if there was a potential for human exposure or contact with the bat.

General Guidelines for Bat Capture

- Notify a facilities supervisor prior to performing a bat capture
- If there is any possibility of human contact with the bat, notify DPS at 315.443.2224
- Avoid direct skin contact with the bat
- Wear heavy, pliable thick leather gloves, long sleeve shirts and pants, and a face shield
- 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
- Avoid damaging the bat's head (needed for testing)

If the bat is in arm's reach:

- 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 or tape the cardboard tightly to the can
- Alternatively, use tongs or sticky tape at the end of a pole to capture and then place bat into container
- Gloves used in capture should be cleaned with an EPA registered disinfectant solution, or double bagged and disposed of in the trash

If the bat is NOT in arm's reach:

- Use an extension pole with a net may to capture the bat
- Using a net, rotate pole so the bat is scooped into the net and the net turns in on itself containing the bat
- With a gloved hand, hold the bat from 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)
- Alternatively, use long tongs or sticky tape at the end of a pole to capture and then place bat into container
- Do not use glue board to capture bat, as the bat cannot be easily removed for rabies testing
- Gloves used in capture should be cleaned with an EPA registered disinfectant solution, or double bagged and disposed of in the trash



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Guidelines for Captured Bat

If human exposure is confirmed or suspected, **DO NOT RELEASE** the bat.

- Label the container holding the bat with the following information.
 - ✓ Date of capture
 - ✓ Location capture
 - ✓ Name of exposed individual (if available from DPS)
 - ✓ Your name
 - ✓ Your supervisor's name
- Bring bat to Booth Hall, Room G16 (right off the loading dock)
- Place container into a plastic bag and put in dedicated refrigerator
- Fill out the bat capture log by the refrigerator
- Call EHSS at 31.443.4132. Leave a voicemail after hours

If it is confirmed that there was no human exposure to the bat, the bat can be released

- Release bat to the outdoors, near bush/tree cover and away from people

Guidelines for Bat Exposures During Capture

If the bat comes in contact with your bare skin while you are attempting to capture the bat

- Contact DPS immediately at 315.443.2224
- Contact SU Health Services at 315.443.9005
- Contact your supervisor
- Complete a Worker's Compensation Accident/ Illness report form

If you have any questions or need assistance on proper bat capture and handling, contact Syracuse University Environmental Health and Safety Services at 315.443.4132.