

#Batsoflowa Social Media Content

Rabies Risk

Post 1: Each year, there are bats tested in Iowa that are positive for rabies. This is why you should never touch a bat with your bare hands.

If you or a family member are bitten by a bat, do your best to capture it so it can be tested to determine if the rabies vaccines series is needed to prevent rabies. There are ways to safely catch a bat. Find out [how to safely catch a bat](#). #Batsoflowa

Post 2: If a bat is flying around in your home, don't try to hit it out of the air. Instead, wait for it to land then safely capture it. If you know the bat didn't bite a person or pet, release it outside. If it may have bitten a person or pet, you should have it tested to determine if shots (vaccines) to prevent rabies are needed. Learn [how to safely catch a bat](#). #Batsoflowa

Post 3: Be aware if you find a bat indoors. A bat bite can be so small that it may be undetectable. If you don't know if the bat touched you, your family or pet, then you are considered potentially exposed to rabies

If a rabid bat bites a person, shots (vaccines) are needed to prevent rabies. Learn [how to safely catch a bat](#). #Batsoflowa

Post 4: Bats play a vital role in our ecosystem. Not all bats have rabies, but it's important to recognize possible signs of rabies in bats. Unusual behaviors that could indicate that a bat has rabies include:

- A bat that is active during the day.
- A bat that is found in unusual places (inside a home or on the ground).
- A bat that is unable to fly or is easily approached.

If you see strange bat behavior, do not touch or approach the bat. If you are bitten by a bat speak with your healthcare provider about shots (vaccines) to prevent rabies. Learn more about bats and rabies at the Iowa HHS rabies webpage ([Rabies - Information for Public, Providers and Veterinarians | Health & Human Services](#)). #Batsoflowa

Post 5: You cannot get rabies from seeing a bat or touching bat poop.

It is recommended to never touch a bat. Bats are happiest when left alone. If you think you were bitten or scratched by a bat, talk with your healthcare provider about shots (vaccines) to prevent rabies. Learn more about bats and rabies at the Iowa HHS rabies webpage ([Rabies - Information for Public, Providers and Veterinarians | Health & Human Services](#)). #Batsoflowa

Post 6: Avoid touching or handling bats, but you need to pick up a bat, wear thick leather gloves.

If you encounter a sick or injured bat, contact a wildlife rescue/rehabilitation organization or local veterinarian for help. People who are trained in handling bats should be vaccinated and always use appropriate protection when interacting with bats. By following good practices and respecting wildlife – we can minimize risks while coexisting with bats. Learn how to safely catch a bat on the Iowa HHS rabies webpage ([Rabies - Information for Public, Providers and Veterinarians | Health & Human Services](#)).

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Bat Exclusion

Post 1: Bats do not chew their way into buildings but can squeeze through a hole as small as a dime! Keep bats out of your home by fixing torn window screens, broken siding, loose shingles, missing or broken chimney caps, and fill any holes around your home that lead outside. #Batsoflowa

Post 2: September and April are the best months to bat-proof your home. Most bats look for places in the fall and winter to hibernate. This will also prevent young bats, unable to fly from being trapped inside. #Batsoflowa

Post 3: (this one is a little hard to understand) Trying to keep bats from coming back? Exclude bats by watching where they exit the building at dusk, then hang a flap made of clear plastic sheeting or bird netting over these areas. Bats will be able to leave but not re-enter the building. #Batsoflowa

Post 4: While bats can carry the rabies virus that can make people, pets, and livestock sick, the best way to protect the health of everyone is to protect the natural habitats of bats. When left alone, bats pose little risk. Keeping natural habitats available for bats prevents them from coming into close contact with humans, pets, and livestock; plus keeps bats safe! #Batsoflowa

Bats and Pets

Post 1: Bats are everywhere in Iowa and bats are the most commonly found animal to carry rabies. Dogs and cats will try to play with or hunt a bat they find. Another reason it is important to vaccinate dogs and cats against rabies. #Batsoflowa