

I found a bat in my house.
Should I be concerned?

Yes! It is not normal to find a bat in your house. The CCBH receives dozens of calls a year regarding bats found in the home. Approximately 5% of bats that are tested have been found to carry rabies. In general, the older your home is, the more likely a bat will find its way into your home. Bats do not enter your home to bite you or your pets. They think they are in a cave or other secluded location. Please do the following if you find a bat in your house:

- Safely capture the bat if it is found alive. Do not smash the bat with a shoe or throw a bat against a hard surface. Damaging the bat's head could prevent it from being tested for rabies.
- Call us to discuss the possible human or pet exposures that may have occurred in the home.
- Bat bites cannot typically be seen on your body because their teeth are so small.
- Have your home thoroughly checked to identify potential entry points.



Do's and Don'ts

- Please contact the CCBH to report any animal bites or to discuss potential rabies exposures.
- If you are bitten by a domesticated animal (dog or cat), please obtain as much information as possible about the owner of the animal.
- Wash your wound with soap and water as soon as possible to minimize any infection.
- Keep your pet's rabies vaccinations up to date and have your pet checked by a Veterinarian on an annual basis.
- If you find a bat in your house, **do not let it go**. Safely capture the bat and call the CCBH to discuss the exposure risk to you and your pets. The bat may need to be tested to determine if it has rabies.
- Please check our website (www.ccbh.net/rabies/) for additional information and links.

CUYAHOGA COUNTY
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YOUR TRUSTED SOURCE FOR PUBLIC HEALTH INFORMATION

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Animal Bite Prevention Tips



Why do animals bite?

The Cuyahoga County Board of Health (CCBH) has developed this pamphlet to help educate pet owners and the general public on the top reasons why people are bitten by animals. Although people are often scratched or bitten by domestic animals or wildlife, many of the bites could have been prevented. The following list includes some of the reasons why domesticated animals bite:

- The puppy or kitten is not properly socialized with other people or pets.
- A baby has been left alone with a dog. Young children should be supervised when pets are present.
- Dog owners do not properly train or control their pet.
- Children are often not taught how to behave around pets. They should not tease, chase, or touch strange pets.



To help prevent animal bites, you should try to minimize your contact with wildlife:

- Do not provide food, harborage, or water to wildlife. Keep wildlife in the woods and not by your house.
- Do not leave food outside for your pets. If you must feed them outside, place enough food for them to eat in a few minutes and bring the bowl back inside promptly.
- Teach your children not to approach a sick or injured animal. Have them tell you first and then call your animal warden or a police officer to handle the matter.
- Keep your dogs on a leash when taking them for a walk.



Please contact the CCBH if your pet gets into a fight with a wild animal or you find them with a bat. If possible, the wild animal should be tested for rabies.



Animal bite trivia and facts:

- Approximately 50% of the victims from dog bites are under the age of 12.
- Almost 5 million people a year are bitten by dogs in the USA. Many of these require an emergency room visit.
- It does not matter what breed you have, the most important factor in preventing animal bites is to properly train your pet.
- Cat bites are often worse than dog bites because their small teeth easily puncture your skin. Their saliva gets under your skin and may cause an infection.

Sources: Erie Insurance, AVMA