

## What to do if you find a bat

If a bat is found, do not touch the bat. Bats can carry serious diseases, although very rare, but precautions should be taken to avoid contracting these diseases. Keep a safe distance from the animal as they have a surprisingly wide wingspan.

Ensure children and pets are not able to get to the bat.

Call the Wildcare phone. If a bat is not under immediate threat say for instance, drowning in a pool or being attacked by ants, it is best to not attempt to move the animal. It is preferred that the animal's whereabouts are closely monitored until it can be attended to, in case it moves and cannot be found again. However if this is impossible or the situation is life threatening, you can make the decision to move the animal yourself, but this should not be done with bare hands or arms. If you feel it is safe to do so, encourage the animal to crawl onto a soft broom or piece of material and it can be placed into a box or pillow case from there. If the bat is in the sun, shade the bat for as long as possible.

If the bat has been contained, keep it dark and at room temperature. If it has been contained after sunset, make extra effort to ensure the box or pillow case is escape proof as they are great escape artists!

Do not offer the bat food or water. Microbats need to be warm before being able to ingest and process fluids and solids, so offering anything when they are not sufficiently warmed may kill the bat.

If the bat appears to be fit and healthy and is flying around a room, it is still best to have the animal caught and assessed before release. Bats dehydrate much faster than other mammals and their blood urea concentrations can quickly increase in this time, causing the animal to die of urea poisoning within hours. The only instance a bat can be released via an open door by the caller is if the caller witnessed the bat flying into the building and it has only been inside for a short time.



Thanks to Kirrily for providing this information.