

What do I do if I find a bat?

First, don't panic.

NEVER TOUCH A BAT OR ANY OTHER WILD ANIMAL.

Notify Brandon Animal Control 204-729-2345

- Bats are usually shy and gentle animals, and you can't get rabies from just seeing a bat or being in a room or hallway with one.
- A bat that is being handled might bite in self-defence. A bat that you can approach – one that can't fly, is on the floor/ground or clinging to a wall – is much more likely than other bats to be sick or injured and might have rabies.
- Again: NEVER TOUCH ANY WILD ANIMAL.
- If you see a bat on the ground do not approach it or touch it. Don't pet it, catch it, comfort it, kick it aside or try to shoo it away. Stay back, keep others from approaching it and call **Brandon Animal Control** for advice.
- If you are bitten or come in direct contact with a bat, don't wait, get immediate medical advice. Begin by washing exposed skin vigorously with soap and water for 15 minutes.
- Contact **Health Links**: 1-888-315-9257



Remember: Bats are usually excellent neighbours that just want to be left alone. They spend their nights eating huge amounts of moths, beetles, mosquitos and other bugs that pester us in our backyards and damage food crops. Other bats pollinate plants just as bees and hummingbirds do, and scatter seeds that help forests grow.

Many people fear bats because they don't know anything about them. And a lot of what people think they know about bats is just wrong: Bats are not blind, they aren't flying mice and they certainly won't get tangled in your hair. Bats are very handy to have around.

Just don't ever touch a bat.