



PLEASE HELP BATS

DO NOT ACCIDENTALLY TRANSPORT THEM WHEN CAMPING



BATS ARE IMPORTANT

There are at least 9 species of bats in Alberta and all eat insects, including urban, farm and forest pests. Bats are useful!

BATS ARE IN TROUBLE

White-nose Syndrome (WNS) is a disease (caused by a fungus found in caves) that has killed millions of bats in eastern North America. WNS is getting closer to Alberta; it is now in Washington. We want to avoid accidentally transporting bats from WNS infected areas to Alberta.

Also, when a bat is moved it may not be able to find safe roosts or hibernation sites. All the more reason to avoid helping hitch-hiking bats.

Please follow the instructions on this sign.

BATS AND HUMAN HEALTH

Less than 1% of bats have rabies and they only bite in self-defence. As a precaution you should always avoid direct contact with bats. If you are scratched or bitten by a bat, call **Alberta Health Link: 811.**



NIGHTTIME

If possible, inspect and close awnings and umbrellas before you go to bed so bats don't roost there.

BEFORE YOU PACK UP YOUR CAMP

Inspect the outside of your camper, check awnings and the underside of your umbrella.

If you find a bat, keep children and pets away from it. Like most wildlife, bats will bite if they are handled. If the awning or umbrella is open, the bat will probably leave on its own,

If the bat does not leave, CAREFULLY AND GENTLY nudge the bat with a broom or other long object to encourage it to fly away. If the bat does not fly away, follow instructions below to safely move the bat.

HOW TO MOVE A BAT - *only when necessary*

Use a thick towel, oven mitt or a leather glove to remove a bat – NEVER use bare hands. You can move a bat the same way as moving a bee: gently place a container over the bat and slide a piece of cardboard underneath. Place the bat at least 2m high on a tree. If the bat should not be released, place it in a box or container that is completely sealed except for small air holes. See Contact information.

WHEN YOU SET UP CAMP

Inspect awnings and umbrellas as you open them. If you find a bat:

- ❖ If your last campsite was in Alberta, encourage the bat to fly away.
- ❖ If your last campsite was outside of Alberta, the bat SHOULD NOT be released. See contact info and instructions below.

CONTACT

To report a 'stow-away' bat:

- ❖ **Alberta Community Bat Program**
 - 1-866-574-1706
 - info@albertabats.ca
 - www.albertabats.ca

For wildlife rehabilitation centres for bats, visit the website above.

- ❖ **Alberta Environment and Parks**
 - Toll Free in AB: 310-3773
 - AEP.Info-Centre@gov.ab.ca
 - www.AEP.alberta.ca