

Rabies Alert

The Anne Arundel County Department of Health has issued a rabies alert after a bat, which was found on August 10 outside a home near Chesapeake Avenue and First Street in Eastport, tested positive for rabies.

Rabies is a deadly disease, and animals that have rabies can spread the disease to humans and pets through a bite or scratch, or if infected saliva touches a person's eyes, nose, mouth, or broken skin.

Not all bats carry rabies, but anyone who has had contact with a bat or has seen a bat in a room with a sleeping person or unattended child should call the Department of Health at 410 222-7256, Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m, or after business hours at 443 418-3140. A Department representative will speak with you and may recommend medical treatment. If a pet has had contact with a bat, call County Animal Control at 410 222-8900. Pet owners are advised to keep rabies vaccinations current for dogs, cats, and ferrets.

If you find a bat inside your home or one that is showing unusual behavior (such as being active in the daytime or unafraid of humans) or that appears sick or injured, **DO NOT TOUCH THE BAT**. If possible, shut the bat in a room by itself or trap it under a trashcan. Immediately call County Animal Control at 410 222-8900.

For online information about rabies, go to the "Communicable Diseases" section of www.aahealth.org. Select "Diseases & Conditions" and click "Rabies."

To get a free brochure on bats and rabies, call 410 222-7256.