

Observations to help increase
success reuniting pups with
their mothers.



In East Lancashire we now get most of our bat pups and young juveniles reunited with their mothers

Because we mainly get pipistrelles in care these observations are based on reuniting pipistrelles

It is not only young pups that get collected by their mothers

- Young pups are picked up and carried by the mother.
- Juveniles are encouraged to fly and leave with the mother.

How soon after emergence do pups get collected by mothers

- Most frequently when the mothers are returning to the roost
- Average between 22.30 -23.30
- Bats don't have a rule book

It can take more than one attempt to reunite

- The pup was a different species to the colony in the building where it was found.
- The roost abandoned
- More than one roost entrance on large buildings
- Multiple colonies and flight lines need attempts in different positions.
- Perhaps the mother was searching inside the roost or was trapped in the building where the pup was found.
- Minimise the number of attempts by maximising the number of volunteers to find out where the bats & flight lines are

Where to try if no active roost

- At the abandoned roost. Mothers sometimes return to search for lost pups
- If no roost can be found try where the bats are foraging
- Use satellite maps such as Google Earth for clues where the bats might go.

Vertical flat surface with a good grip -
canvas mesh pegged to a bag

Sides prevent the pup crawling out of
sight - *plastic coated tubing*

Warmth to keep the pup active - *Hot
water bottle inside the bag*

Freestanding so it can be positioned in
an optimum place and moved quickly if
necessary – *ladders or tripod*

Safe from predators



Gail Armstrong's pup reuniting equipment



What to expect

- There may be no attention from bats at emergence time
- Pup doesn't always call when bats are emerging
- There may be a long period with no bat activity at all.
- One bat may inspect the pup closely then fly off. Often seconds or just a few minutes later many bats will arrive back at the colony.
- Bats will swarm round the pup, sometimes landing to closely inspect the pup.
- Often some bats swarm for a while then either leave or enter the roost.
- There may be gaps with no bats. Don't give up !

When the mother arrives

- Calls from the pup intensify.
- Frequent landing near the pup
- Mother often lands a distance away before going to the pup and collecting it

Right or wrong species or colony

Common & Soprano pipistrelles will investigate & swarm round a pup of the other species but either not land at all or only occasionally.

Correct colony will swarm round pup and land near it frequently.

When the mother is around the pup calls intensify and the landings next to the pup increase until she lands and collects the pup before flying off

The majority of pups that come into care appear to be lost not orphaned or abandoned

