

There is a bat in my hotel/holiday home! How can I help?

If the bat is flying around the room:

1. Enclose the bat into one single room with a window or door to the outside if possible.
2. If it is dark outside, open the windows and/or external doors as widely as possible, dim or turn off the lights and let it find its own way out.
3. You may wish to stand outside or search the room to be sure that the bat escaped safely.
4. NEVER try to catch a flying bat as this is almost impossible and you are likely to injure it severely.



Summary of the law relating to bats

All bats and their roosts are protected under The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017.

Bats may only be handled by appropriately licensed people, but if a bat is found in trouble away from its roost, a licence is not required to handle them for the purpose of rescue and release.



If you would like to learn more about our native bats please look at the Bat Conservation Trust website or contact your local bat group (details of which can be found on the website) <http://www.bats.org.uk/>. Alternatively, call the National Bat Helpline on 0345 1300 228.



If the bat has landed or is crawling:

In every case, we advise that a landed or crawling bat be contained following the containment advice. To contain a bat, we advise that you wear gloves or use a clean tea towel to protect your hands when containing the bat.

1. Prepare a box with a secure fitting lid (a shoe box or disused ice cream tub would be suitable) by putting a few small air holes into the lid of the box for ventilation.
2. Place the box over the bat and use a piece of cardboard to gently and carefully slide the bat into the box (*If you cannot put the box over the bat then an alternative is to pick the bat up gently in the tea towel and transfer the bat and tea towel to the box*).
3. Put a piece of clean cloth such as an old tea towel loosely crumpled in one corner of the box. The bat will feel safer if it has something to crawl into and hide.
4. Place a very small shallow container (such as a bottle top) with a few drops of water (not enough for the bat to drown in) in another corner so the bat does not dehydrate.
5. Put the box somewhere quiet and dark at room temperature.
6. Check the box regularly (every couple of hours) in case water needs to be replenished.

Please contact the National Bat Helpline on [0345 1300 228](tel:03451300228) to receive advice and phone numbers for voluntary bat rehabilitators in your area. Alternatively, the bat can be taken to a local vet. Please provide the vet with the National Bat Helpline number and an address for where the bat was found.

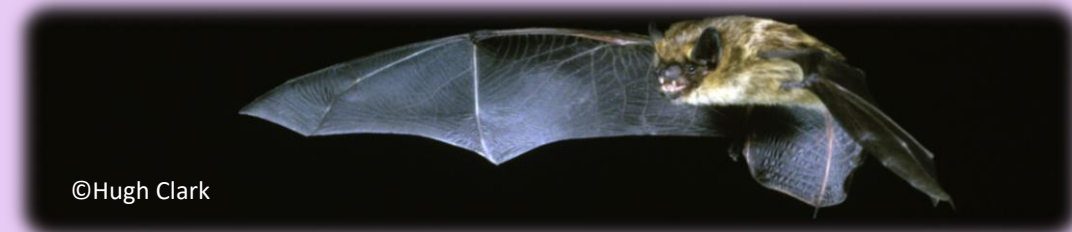
If you have a healthy bat that was seen flying strongly, you can release it in the evening by:

1. Placing the box on its side on top of a wall or shed, at least five feet off the ground (remember to remove the water container first to avoid spillage).
2. Using gloves to bring the cloth out of the box to allow the bat to fly away when it is ready.
3. Watching the bat closely for about fifteen minutes to make sure it flies away.

Please do not release a bat if:

- It has not been seen flying strongly
- It has an injury
- A cat has brought the bat in
- It is during daylight hours
- It is between 1st November & 31st March
- The weather conditions are not suitable (storms/high winds/temperatures below 5°C).

If the bat does not fly away after 15 - 20 minutes, take it back inside and get expert help from the National Bat Helpline.



Bats and Rabies

A small number of bats in the UK have been found to carry a rabies virus. This virus is only transmitted via a bite or scratch so the risk is very small and is removed if you do not handle the bat. Bats are not typically aggressive animals, and the virus has only been found in two of our 18 native species. In situations where handling is necessary, wear protective gloves or use a tea towel and handle the bat as little as possible. If despite precautions you are bitten or scratched by a bat or if a bite or scratch is suspected:

- Wash the area bitten or scratched immediately with soap and water for at least five minutes. Additional cleansing of the area with an alcohol base or other disinfectant is also recommended.
- Seek advice from your doctor as soon as possible.
- Contact The Bat Conservation Trust on 0345 1300 228 for advice on reporting the incident.

Found a bat whilst on holiday?

We can help!



Bats are truly fascinating animals, and it can be a magical experience to witness these elusive creatures darting and ducking around the night's sky on a warm summer evening.



Here in the UK, we have 18 different species of bat, all of whom are sadly either vulnerable or endangered. However, we are still fortunate enough to have many places where you might be able to spot these captivating animals. In fact, bats often live close to us - there could be bats roosting very near to where you are staying!

They too like to spend their summers away from their winter homes, but very occasionally, a bat will accidentally fly off course on its way back to its holiday home, and end up in yours. Don't worry, it's not looking to hang out with you for the rest of your holiday, it will just want to get home. Should this happen, please follow the advice found in this leaflet.



We also recommend that you let the owner/manager of the property know so that they can contact the Bat Conservation Trust for further information about bats and their roosts. There is advice about what to do if you find a bat overleaf.



Bat Conservation Trust 

National Bat Helpline:
0345 1300 228
www.bats.org.uk
enquiries@bats.org.uk



©Hugh Clark. Top left: Brown long-eared bat; top right: Common Serotine; middle: Common pipistrelle; bottom left: Daubenton's bat