



CITY OF NEWBURYPORT BOARD OF HEALTH

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Regional Animal Control Services

What To Do If Bats Are Found In Residential Homes

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According to the State Rabies Program Coordinator, Patricia Cabral, PAC Agents are used by numerous municipalities for calls involving bats and other wildlife and that it is perfectly acceptable to refer bat calls out to PAC Agents. PAC agents can make a judgment call as whether to test a bat or set it free and can also submit specimens for testing themselves. It is recommended by the State that an agreement is reached with one or two PAC Agents that their names will be given out to residents who will be instructed to call them directly for assistance with bats and if the bat is sent for testing by the PAC agent that they notify the ACO.

I have spoken to Jack Card, PAC Agent, and he is willing to be the go to PAC Agent for calls regarding bats in homes if this proposal is accepted. I am proposing the following be adopted as protocol moving forward for all calls regarding bats found in homes.

If bats are found in residents homes and need to be captured/located within their homes and/or it is after business hours for the ACO:

They should be referred to contact Jack Card of Nuisance Wildlife Solutions in Newburyport for assistance. Mike Cahill, Massachusetts Director of Agricultural Resources, states that bats are required to be tested only when one is found in sleeping quarters and was potentially sleeping while it was present or direct contact/exposure is known to have occurred by a human or an animal. If it is determined that specimens should be submitted for rabies testing, Mr. Card as a PAC Agent has the ability to submit the specimen himself for testing. In this case Mr. Card would notify the ACO that a specimen was submitted for testing and of the result of the test.

If bats are found in residents homes and have been captured in a container during regular business hours:

Residents can contact the ACO who will respond out and determine whether or not the specimen needs to be tested. If it needs to be tested the ACO will submit the specimen for testing. If the animal cannot be located within the house or cannot be captured by the home owner, the resident calling should be instructed to contact PAC Agent Card for assistance.

Any questions regarding bats and rabies please contact Problem Animal Control Agent Jack Card at (978)463-0887 or Regional Animal Control Officer Matthew J. Lipinski at (978)465-4410.