

Bats

The Bay Area is home to many species of bats. They are a protected non-game species and may not be harmed, except under special conditions set by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Bats are very beneficial because they eat a large variety of harmful insects. A colony of 500 bats can easily capture over a half a million insects nightly.

Some bats roost in trees and rock crevices. Other colonial species roost in buildings or may have nighttime feeding roosts. Bats roosting on porches and eaves are usually Pallid bats which come at night to roost and feed on their meal; insect body parts are often found below the roost. To deter bats from roosting, cover the area with smooth, tight-fitting plastic, such as Plexiglas or other hard plastic, so they can't crawl under or cling to it. Naphthalene flakes (moth balls) suspended in netting or socks sometimes deter bats from roosting in an area.



Never attempt to handle any bat, as they are potential vectors of the lethal rabies virus. However, less than one half-percent of bats actually contract rabies.

Eliminate openings where bats may enter a building. If a bat enters a building allow it to fly out by itself through open windows or doors.

Never seal a roosting area from May through August in case there is a nursery colony with baby bats that cannot fly out.

If humans or pets come in direct contact or are bitten by a bat, collect the bat and seek immediate medical advice from your local county health department and doctor.