

24 HOUR POLL POSTED ON FACEBOOK

Recently it has been speculated that humans who have Covid-19 may be able to transmit the disease to bats. (Note: this has not been proven). However, some states have decided to restrict bat rehabilitation entirely until more information can be gleaned. Some wildlife rehabilitators are being told by their state that when the public calls about a downed bat, even an injured or orphaned baby bat, that they should tell the public to leave bat alone, place him/her a tree, or call animal control to have the bat euthanized. Please let us know what you might do if you cannot get help for a bat that you have found.



Use gloves and place the bat into a tree, even if it is orphaned or injured

Voters for this option 133



Leave the bat on the ground or wherever it was found and let nature take its course

Voters for this option 12



Take the bat home and research how to take care of it yourself

Voters for this option 545



Call animal control to have the bat euthanized

Voters for this option 9

Comments

- if, after researching the situation, I discovered that the best course of action was to place it back into a tree, that is what I would do. 😊
- I'm not happy about just leaving it but I don't want them killed either
- Tbh, if possible, I would continue trying to find a rescue, even out of state that might take it.
- My biggest fear is that if I were to take it home, my dog or one of my cats might get curious and accidentally (or intentionally) do something to it. :(Which is why in the past while removing bats from my former workplace I usually tried to put them by a tree if it was daylight out already. (7 story building, didn't always see them roaming around until it was light out and we got a call about it. ·
- Depends on the circumstances. If injured of course I'll take it home and not leave it in the wild. If in a protected area, shade..also depends on time of day, leave it alone. If in unsafe territory and not in any

other distress, gloves and up safe n sound

- I would use gloves to pick em up and put in a box. Messenger someone to ask directions on how to care for a baby. Just not fair to ignore a baby or injured bat.
- I would contact a re-habber. I have cats so I wouldn't feel right bringing it home
- leave the bat on a rehabbers doorstep. I highly doubt someone from animal control would be following me or lurking around the rehab. There is absolutely NO scientific evidence we transmit any COVID19 between species under normal circumstances. In fact, the preponderance of evidence is that the virus was manipulated by humans.
- I'd take it in, but I have experience handling bats, and know a couple of rehabbers.
- I'd prefer to call a rehabber anyway because they're experienced and I'm not. They can at least point me in the right direction.
- This is scary and sad. I hope they don't restrict.
- If it's not injured or otherwise needing aid, I would leave it alone. Possibly put it in a tree if it would be safer. If it was injured or in need of help, I have enough experience and resources to have a fighting chance at helping. So I would try. With gloves.
- There are a couple of bat rehabbers in my area. If I could not place in a tree, I would definitely pick it up, with gloves on, and take it to one of the rehabbers in my area.
- Since rehabbing by zoom or FaceTime isn't covered, that's what I would do.....get my rehabber on the phone.....and promise not to squeal if interrogated.
- Use gloves, take the bat inside, check for injuries, provide sub q fluids and refer to The Rehabilitation and Captive Care of Insectivorous Bats until a rehabber within a day's drive of me is able to assist as I'm not set up for long term care.
- Too bad there isn't an option to call and arrange to talk to a rehab specialist via Skype
- Take it home and rehab it.
- I'm in close contact with a rehabber here so I would ask her for help
- I would put on gloves and put in a box
- I would take it home and call bat rehabilitators on the sly.
- Nobodies going to know if you pick up a sick bat, unless you advertise it... So 🙊 we can all do our bit to stop the death of these lovely winged fur babies <3

- Luckily, I used to work with bats a few years ago so darn right I'd try to rehabilitate myself if no other resources were available.
- If this should happen I would take it home and try my best.
- took the survey but would still do everything possible to get the bat to a trained person, starting with calls to local vets.
- I would still take the bat to a bat sanctuary. If they didn't take batty then they could at least tell me how to care for it or tell me what I should do.
- I would help. I would at least call a rescuer to get advise. Road trip if necessary.
- I'd probably call a vet, or ask my local community if there were any underground carers (for example, vet techs who already have the rabies vaccine).
- I'd do whatever possible to save the batty but would not just call for euthanasia.
- Anyone conscientious enough to be moved to help an injured animal is not going to leave them to suffer and die when they can't find a licensed rehabber!
- Done! People who rescue, care for, and rehab bats, as well as offer forever homes to bats (such as yourselves) are the experts and thus intelligent enough to decide whether or not it is safe to still help bats. This virus has still not been proven definitively to have come from bats. I would definitely want to help a bat, I couldn't leave it to die or vulnerable to attack, then I'd put a post on FB bat groups asking for advice. Trouble is, I'm not trained to handle bats, so although I'd do my best, I may further injure and/or distress it unwittingly as a result. That's why we need bat experts, to help these vital and innocent animals!
- Although I would like to choose research how to care for it myself without the rabies vaccine I don't think I should do that.
- I'd like to add that I'd drive it however far it needed to get to an open rescue. I'm unemployed so I'm trying to volunteer to be a rescue driver/taxi anyway
- Done but more choices should have been available as I said no to all except the helping it choice.
- That's a hard one. To leave it or have it euthanized when it could be helped and returned to the population... That is shortsighted and stupid. But I know you need shots and other stuff to become a rehabber, and it's not for the faint of heart or weak of knowledge
- My state won't allow rehabilitation of any wild animals. I am rabies vaccinated, have veterinary resources at hand (vet tech), and my state can suck it.
- Can you please add in whether you have your preexposure rabies shots or not? That is a big factor
- Call a rehabber and have them walk me through what to do! 😊👍

- I know exactly what I'd do! I would always try to save a little life.
- I've got my AAS in veterinary Science, I've had my rabies shot series... I'm taking it home and doing whatever I can to get it where it needs to be... Even if it means calling in to my regular job and taking an impromptu road trip!
- This whole aspect of the governing agencies dictating what a rescue agency can and cannot do is disturbing. VOTE!!! It is heartbreaking and makes us feel helpless. I will rescue and care for any injured being but I will not call any agency who is ultim...See more
- governing agencies that don't know anything about bats make the decisions instead of the rescue groups who know how to protect against spreading diseases to their rescues. I would tell those states to put it where the light don't shine, put on gloves...See more
- I'm so tired of so called "experts" that know little or nothing about bats having the "power" and control to tell real bat experts what to do.
- The Federally owned show cave that I work for is being kept shut down for this reason. There is ZERO evidence that this can or will happen. ...See more
- There's a bat place here in Florida. I called them and asked years ago what I can do to help because I can't afford the shot for rabies. So if I find a downed baby bat I'm to put on a thick pair of gloves and place it in a little box lined with a soft ...See more
- Useless action or inaction based on nothing at all.
- Disregard the notice and take the bats home.