

IMPROPER HANDLING TECHNIQUES FOR MICROBATS →

It is sometimes necessary to restrain a bat to some extent for various reasons, whether it is a wild bat who accidentally came indoors, a bat mist-netted during field studies, or a bat being used for research. However, restraining these animals in a cruel and painful manner is never appropriate or necessary.

The photos on the right are improper and cruel methods of restraint often used by researchers and others who may be inexperienced and/or fearful of handling bats. These violent methods of handling are not unlike the dangerous joint locks taught in various forms of martial arts, as both serve the same purpose—to restrain a subject with pain and threat of serious injury if the subject resists. These handling techniques often result in injury to the bat and actually increase the propensity of the handler being bitten by a bat in self-defense.

Handling bats humanely minimizes the likelihood of being bitten. It works on one simple principle; if an animal doesn't feel as if there's a dire threat, it significantly decreases its propensity to strike out.



Bats rarely attempt to bite when handled properly, as shown below.

The photos below represent both captive and wild caught bats being handled by trained and vaccinated bat care specialists. Although the photos show bats being handled without gloves, untrained individuals should always wear gloves as a precaution, and wild bats should never be rescued or handled barehanded.

