



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

**Butler County  
General Health District**

For Immediate Release

September 26, 2018

Contact: Butler County General Health District (513) 863-1770, <http://health.bcohio.us/index.php>

**Butler County Reports First Rabies Positive Bat in 2018**

A bat found in Fairfield has tested positive for rabies. There are no known human or pet exposures at this time. This is the first rabies positive animal (bat) found in Butler County since 2013. The presence of one infected bat means there is the possibility of others in the area, and it is highly recommended for the public to take precautions to prevent bat exposures.

Anyone who thinks they may have been exposed to a bat is urged to seek immediate medical attention at a local hospital. The Butler County General Health District can send bats for testing if there has been a potential exposure to humans or pets.

Steps to reduce your risk of rabies from Ohio Department of Health (ODH):

- Avoid contact with wild animals, sick or injured animals and animals you don't know.
- Pet vaccinations should be kept current, and pets should not be permitted to roam.
- Food and nesting or hiding places for wild animals should be eliminated from residential areas.
- Do not feed wildlife, and if you must feed your pets outside, bring the food in at night or keep it covered.
- Homes should be "bat proofed". Any openings larger than a quarter inch should be sealed.
- Call your doctor and your local health department if you are bitten by an animal or if a bat is found in your sleeping area.
- Human rabies immunizations are effective in preventing human rabies. A series of post-exposure rabies immunizations can be given to animal bite victims when the biting animal cannot be quarantined or tested.
- Call your veterinarian if your pet gets into a fight with a wild animal.

Learn more about rabies on the ODH website at: <https://www.odh.ohio.gov/rabies>

Guidance document on Bats & Rabies including how to safely capture a bat:

<https://www.odh.ohio.gov/-/media/ODH/ASSETS/Files/bid/zdp/Animals/Bats/batsandrabies.pdf?la=en>

Ohio rabies statistics: <https://www.odh.ohio.gov/en/odhprograms/bid/zdp/diseases/rabiesanimtest>