

Bat Safety

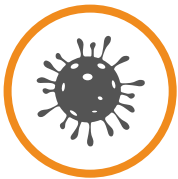
The Bendigo region is host to a large native bat population made up of two main types: the grey-headed flying fox and microbats. There is a group of flying foxes living at Bendigo's Rosalind Park that can range in size from 200 members in winter to 2000 in summer.

Did you know?

Bats in Australia are protected native wildlife under the Wildlife Act 1975. This means it is illegal to kill or harm them, interfere with their roosts, or move them from where they are found.

While bats are not dangerous to humans when left alone, living close to them means we may still encounter them in and around our homes.

Health risks



Bats in Australia can carry a virus known as the Australian Bat Lyssa Virus (ABLV), which is related to the rabies virus. It is a severe viral disease that affects the central nervous system and is almost always deadly. ABLV can transmit from a bat through a bite or a scratch.



The most important rule with bats is to try and avoid handling them at all.



Call Wildlife Victoria on 03 8400 7300 for help – they will be able to send a trained and vaccinated wildlife handler to help.



If you have been bitten or scratched by a bat;

- wash the affected area with soap and water
- apply an antiseptic such as Betadine
- get medical help as soon as you can as there are vaccines and post-exposure treatments for ABLV which need to be given as soon as possible



Bat Safety

Here's what you need to do if:

You find a bat hanging by itself during the day.

This is not normal behaviour for a bat.

Call Wildlife Victoria and report the bat for assessment.

A bat flies into my house.

Do not touch or try to catch it.

Open all doors and windows, turn off indoor lights and ceiling fans, and if possible, turn on an outdoor light.

If the bat seems unable or unwilling to fly, call Wildlife Victoria.

Your pet catches a bat.

If possible, get your pet to drop the bat. If you have to, try not to handle the bat with bare hands: use thick gardening gloves and try not to handle the bat too much.

Your pet should be taken to a vet as there is a post-exposure vaccine available.

Call Wildlife Victoria for assistance with the bat.

If you think you might have a bite or scratch (microbats may leave very small wounds that can be hard to see), seek medical help as soon as possible.

You find a sick or injured bat.

Do not touch or attempt to rescue the bat yourself.

Keep children and pets away.

Call Wildlife Victoria for help.

You find a bat stuck in netting / barbed wire / hanging on powerline.

Do not try to rescue the bat yourself. It is common for bats to get injured when people try to help them.

It is safer to not handle flying foxes at all as they can become aggressive and bite when scared.

Call Wildlife Victoria for assistance.

You find a dead bat.

Do not handle the bat with your bare hands.

There can sometimes be a live baby clinging to the dead bat under the wing.

Call Wildlife Victoria for advice and assistance

This information has been produced in collaboration with Wildlife Victoria.

