

Bats

The Bendigo region is home to a large native bat population.

Being scratched or bitten by a bat can cause a number of health problems.

That's why it's important not to touch them at all.

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.

What are the 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.



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



WHAT IF?

WHAT TO DO



I 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



My pet catches a bat

- If possible, get your pet to drop the bat
- If you have to handle it, use thick gardening gloves and try not to touch the bat too much
- Call Wildlife Victoria for assistance with the bat
- Take your pet to a vet as soon as possible for a post-exposure vaccine
- 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



I 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



I find a bat stuck in wire, netting etc.

- Do not try to rescue the bat yourself
- Call Wildlife Victoria for help



I find a dead bat

- Do not touch the bat with bare hands
- Call Wildlife Victoria for advice and help

This information has been produced in collaboration with Wildlife Victoria.

