

Bat Conservation Trust

Bats and Cats



Advice For Responsible Cat Owners

Thank you for calling the Bat Conservation Trust about the bat your cat caught.

Cats do not eat bats but they like to play with them. If a bat has been caught by a cat it will need expert help from a trained bat carer as soon as possible. Even a tiny amount of cat saliva in a bat's bloodstream can cause infection and without help they are likely to die. Cats will often learn where a bat roost is and catch bats as they leave the roost, putting a whole colony at risk.

By following a few simple steps responsible cat owners can stop bats being harmed:

- Bring your cat indoors half an hour before sunset and keep it in all night when bats are most active (April – October).
- If you cannot keep your cat in all night, bring it in half an hour before sunset and keep it in for an hour after sunset.
- It is very important to keep cats indoors at night from mid-June until the end of August because bats will be looking after their babies.



If your cat often brings in bats he/she might have found a roost and may return to it.



Bat Carers estimate that over 30% of bats they rescue have been attacked by cats.¹

Only 14% of bats injured by cats are released. Over half (56%) do not survive a cat attack and 30% cannot be returned to the wild.²

What should I do if I find a bat on the ground?

Only handle the bat if you have to; as with any wild animal use gloves or a tea towel to avoid getting bitten. Place the bat in a box with small air holes in and put in a small, shallow container with a few drops of water. Contact the Bat Conservation Trust Bat Helpline for advice on 0845 1300 228.

¹ Jan Ragg (2001-2011) and Gail Armstrong (1997-2009).

² Gail Armstrong (1997-2009).