

KIDS and bats don't mix!



Bats and flying foxes play a key role in the ecosystem and are protected in Australia. They are sometimes found lying on the ground or hanging low in trees, and may carry germs that can make you very sick, especially if they bite or scratch you.

What should you do if you come across a bat?

- **Do not touch a bat**—even if it looks hurt! Sometimes bats might look dead but are still alive, so never touch any bats.
- Move away from the bat so you don't frighten it.
- Tell your parents, a teacher or another adult so they can get help for the bat by calling:
 - » RSPCA—1300 ANIMAL (1300 264 625)
 - » Department of Environment and Heritage Protection—1300 130 372
 - » Your local wildlife care group/rescuer/carer for assistance.



What to do if you get bitten or scratched by a bat:

- It is very important to tell your parents, a teacher or another adult straight away. You will not get in trouble.
- An adult can help you wash the area with soap and running water. This should be done for at least 5 minutes.
- You will need to see a doctor straight away who will treat you to stop the germs making you sick.

<https://www.health.qld.gov.au/communicablediseases/hendra.asp>