

Australian Bat Lyssavirus (ABLV)

Information for people who have found a sick or injured bat

What to do if you find a sick or injured bat:

- Only trained and vaccinated people should handle bats. If you find a sick, injured or distressed bat, **do not touch the bat**. Contact the RSPCA on 1300 ANIMAL (264625) or a bat care organisation in your local area (do a search for 'bat care').
- Any bat in Australia may be infectious with Australian bat lyssavirus regardless of the age or type of bat or how healthy it looks.
- If anyone has been bitten, scratched, had their skin nibbled or had their mucous membranes (eyes, inside the nose or mouth) or broken skin exposed to bat saliva they require immediate medical assessment.
- Even if you have minor scratches or abrasions from a bat, with or without bleeding, seek immediate medical assessment as you will need treatment.
- If you have had an exposure to a bat (as listed above) you may require a series of rabies vaccine injections to protect against Australian bat lyssavirus, even if you have been previously vaccinated. You may also need a tetanus vaccination.

What to do if you or anyone has been bitten or scratched or had mucous membrane exposure to bat saliva from this (or any other bat):

- **Immediately** wash the wound gently but thoroughly for at least 5 minutes with soap and water. Do not scrub the wound.
- Apply an antiseptic to the wound after washing. The best type is one that contains povidine iodine or alcohol.
- If your eyes, nose or mouth have been exposed, flush the area thoroughly with water.
- **Urgently** seek medical attention.
- Contact your local public health unit. Your doctor may do this for you. Details can be found at <http://www.health.qld.gov.au/system-governance/contact-us/contact-public-health-units/default.asp> or you can ring 13HEALTH and ask for your call to be transferred to your nearest public health unit.
- If possible the bat will be tested for ABLV and you will be advised by the public health unit of the result within 48 hours. If the bat is found to not have lyssavirus, you will not need to receive a course of vaccinations. If the bat is not able to be tested, your public health unit will advise you on the necessary treatment.