

# IRVINE POLICE DEPARTMENT

IRVINE POLICE DEPARTMENT • ONE CIVIC CENTER PLAZA  
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## Bat Facts/Information

**Bats** hold a unique place in the animal kingdom by being the only flying mammal. They are beneficial to the ecosystem as pollinators, seed dispersers, and insect predators. Of the 11,000 bat species found throughout the world, 16 species can be found in Orange County. Bats leave their roost at dusk and will hunt insects throughout the night until dawn. In the course of one night's hunting a bat may consume more than half its own body weight in insects. They can navigate and find food in the dark by sending out sound waves and listening for them to bounce back. They seek out areas that are dark, quiet, and well ventilated during the day.

Rabies, a virus which can be transmitted by bats, can affect people and animals. The virus typically enters the body through a bite or a scratch. Domestic animals in your care should have current rabies vaccinations so they don't contract and/or spread the virus. If you observe a bat that looks ill or injured, or you suspect a human or domestic animal has been exposed to a bat, notify **Irvine Animal Services** immediately at **(949) 724-7092**.

For more information, refer to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website:

<http://www.cdc.gov/rabies/bats/index.html>

### BAT TIPS

- Never touch or pick up a bat with bare hands, even if it appears to be dead.
- Keep screens on all windows and secure any openings where bats may enter your home. Keep chimney flues and dampers closed when not in use.
- If a bat flies into your home, try to isolate it in a room and call Animal Services for assistance.
- Immediately notify animal control if you suspect exposure to a human or domestic animal.
- If you find bats roosting in your attic, it is important they be removed by professionals.
- Have all domestic animals in your care vaccinated for rabies.
- Any pet that has come near a bat should be seen by a veterinarian and Animal Services should be notified immediately.