



Bat Protocol

Public Safety Department
Environmental, Health and Safety (EHS) Division
Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) #34

Lafayette College Bat Protocol

Public Safety Department – Environmental, Health and Safety (EHS) Division

Standard Operation Procedure (SOP) #34 – Revised September 2019

Protocol for Responding to Bats in Buildings

1. Public Safety receives a call of a bat inside a building or room.
2. Dispatch a Public Safety Officer to the scene and determine:
 - a. Did the bat directly contact anyone in the area?
 - b. Was there anyone sleeping in the same room as the bat?
 - c. Did anyone see the bat in the same room with an unattended child?
 - d. Did anyone see the bat near a mentally impaired or intoxicated person?
3. If the answer to any of these questions is “yes” capture the bat in a butterfly net and have Public Safety Dispatch contact Keith Galvin, Wildlife Control (610 398-8084 or 610 393-5997). Inform him of the situation and ask that he respond to campus and have it tested for rabies.
4. If the answer to all of these questions is “no”, safely capture the bat with a butterfly net and release it to the outside.

The following are recommended steps to help safely capture and release the bat:

1. If the outdoor daytime temperatures are above 55 °F open the nearest window. The bat will be attracted to the draft and hopefully fly outside. If the outdoor daytime temperatures are below 55 °F, contact Keith Galvin (610 398-8084 or 610 393-5997).
2. Turn on a television in the area if available. The frequencies from the TV will attract the bat to the room/area with the open window.
3. Wait until the bat has landed. Place an empty can or wastebasket over the bat and slide cardboard underneath these to contain the bat.
4. If the bat is still flying use our net to catch and release.
5. If the bat is found dead use a shovel or dustpan to place the bat in a sealed can or jar, or place it in a plastic bag that is within another bag and discard.

Note:

1. Do not scream; the high pitch and loud noise attracts bats.
2. Do not flail your arms above your head or run; the quick movements and increase in airflow will attract the bat and bring it closer to you.