



## What to do if you find a grounded bat

Foolproof instructions from the Bat Conservation Trust website



“Sometimes a grounded bat may just be exhausted and need a bit of time to recover with a little help. It may be injured or in danger from passing cats so it is better to take it into captivity temporarily. Place a box (which should be shoe box or ice cream tub sized) over the bat and slide a piece of cardboard under the box to make the floor of the container. If this is not practical then put on a pair of protective gloves and pick up the bat and put it in the box. Bats are not vicious, but a frightened wild animal may become distressed. Put a piece of cloth such as an old tea towel loosely crumpled in one corner of the box. The bat will feel safer if it has something to crawl into and hide. Put a few small air holes into the lid and a very shallow container (such as a foil milk bottle top) of water in one corner so the bat can have a drink.”



## Instructions for release

“Always wear gloves to handle bats.

“Place the box on its side, so the bat can crawl straight out. Bats need to drop and swoop to become airborne so the box should be on the top of a wall or on a shed roof, at least five feet off the ground, as near as possible to where the bat was found. The bat can then crawl out of the box and fly away when it is ready. If the bat does not fly away within about fifteen minutes it might need further attention, so take it back inside. You may have a bat carer in your area (Phone 0845 1300 228 to find out); if not, take the bat to the vet the following morning. If you pass the bat on to a bat carer it is important also to pass on details of who found the bat, where and in what circumstances it was found.”

wear gloves if you need to handle a bat) . When it gets dark take the bat in the box outside and leave the bat somewhere where the bats exiting from the roost will go past it, for example on the wall beneath the roost, a nearby window sill or the branch of a tree. The mother will be looking for the baby and so the closer you can get it to where the bats exit then the higher the chances of the two being reunited.”



**If you have any concerns call the National Bat Helpline on 0845 1300 228.**

## What to do with baby bats



“If you think it is a baby bat and you know that there is a roost in your roof then keep the bat contained. There may be a bat carer near you. Call the Helpline on 0845 1300 228 to find out.

“Keep the baby bat hydrated by offering it water on the end of a cotton bud (you should always

**They can pass details on to us if you are in Bedfordshire**