



Edwin Lee  
Mayor

Communicable Disease Control Unit  
101 Grove Street, Suite 408  
San Francisco, CA 94102-4505  
[www.sfdph.org/cdcp](http://www.sfdph.org/cdcp)

## Health Advisory August 22, 2012

# Rabid Bat Found

**A third rabid bat this year was found near Lake Merced on August 16, 2012**

A dead bat, later found to have rabies, was found on Lake Merced South Hill (middle of the street) near the mail boxes on Thursday August 16, 2012 in the morning at 7:30 a.m.

If you or your pet had contact with any bat around that time, please call the San Francisco Department of Public Health, Communicable Disease Control Unit at **(415) 554-2830** as soon as possible. After hours, please follow the prompts to page the on-call physician.

Rabies infection in humans causes coma and death. Rabies immunization can prevent the infection and illness if given as soon as possible after exposure.

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Bats live in this area and most do not have rabies. If you find a bat that appears dead, sick or unable to fly, do not touch or handle the bat. Notify Animal Care and Control (ACC) at (415) 554-9400 to capture or retrieve the bat for testing. If found outside your home, in the complex also notify Security Gate Management at (415) 586-3175.

To avoid exposure to rabies:

- Avoid **all** contact with wild animals; do not touch bats even if appearing dead.
- Put screens on all windows and use chimney caps.
- Do not leave doors or unscreened windows open.
- Place draft-guards beneath doors to attics and ensure that all doors to the outside close tightly.
- Evacuate any room with a live bat and close the door and windows and contact ACC.
- Keep your pets' rabies vaccinations up-to-date.