



**HWCC** Humboldt Wildlife Care Center

## Living with Bats

Bats are very beneficial creatures that assist humans by consuming large amounts of mosquitoes. While bats can carry rabies, less than 1% actually have the disease. If bats must be excluded, do not attempt to remove them by hand. Simply watch at dusk to determine the exit points. Screen off all exits but the main one, and install a one-way door using plastic strips or light screening. Attach the door leaving the bottom open, and wait for all the bats to leave before closing up the whole. Bright lights can be used to encourage bats to exit. However, do not place the light too near the exit point, or the bats will avoid the light and not be able to escape. **Do not try to exclude bats in the summer, as there may be young inside that are unable to escape.**

### **Never directly touch a bat!**

If a bat was handled without gloves, place it in a box and contact the Health Department or wildlife rehabilitator for advice.

Encourage bats to live in your area for mosquito control by putting up a bat house. You can build your own (bat house plans can be found on the internet) or can be purchased ready to go. Attach bat house at least ten feet high to a building or pole. Orient bat house to the southeast to catch the morning sun if possible. If not possible, orient between the southeast and southwest to get at least seven hours of direct sun. When evicting bats from a building, place house near existing entrances, preferably a year prior to eviction if possible.