



## **Bat World Sanctuary**

### **Position Statement on Rabies Pre-Exposure Vaccination for Rehabilitators**

**Rabies is a serious public health issue. Although the incidence of rabies in insectivorous bats is quite low, exposure is a risk for individuals working with bats and other rabies-vector species. The CDC estimates that less than ½ or 1% of bats in the U.S. are actively infected with rabies; the challenge is that an individual who finds a bat on the ground will not be able to determine whether or not that particular bat may be rabid.**

**Wildlife rehabilitators, veterinarians, animal control officers, and researchers should be vaccinated for rabies before beginning to work with any rabies vector species, including domestic dogs and cats. In accordance with CDC recommendations, Bat World Sanctuary requires all staff, students, interns, and volunteers to provide proof of rabies pre-exposure vaccination before undertaking any direct contact with bats.**

**[https://www.cdc.gov/rabies/specific\\_groups/travelers/pre-exposure\\_vaccinations.html](https://www.cdc.gov/rabies/specific_groups/travelers/pre-exposure_vaccinations.html)**