



## POSITION STATEMENT ON BAT BITE PROTOCOLS FOR VACCINATED STAFF

Bat World Sanctuary has been routinely vaccinating insectivorous bats against rabies since 1990. To date, we have had no rabies transmission from bat to bat at the sanctuary. We currently administer .05 ml of Imrab 3 rabies vaccine subcutaneously for insectivorous bats weighing between 2 to 35 grams. Releasable bats are vaccinated upon arrival or prior to release. We encourage the vaccination of all insectivorous bats in captivity, but remind everyone that this is extra-label use of the vaccine.

All staff and volunteers who are involved in handling insectivorous bats must be vaccinated for rabies and must have a titer drawn at least once every two years. The titer result is maintained in the individual's personnel file. If the titer result falls below the threshold established by the CDC, the individual must obtain a booster within 7 days.

Bat World encourages staff and volunteers to wear nitrile gloves while handling insectivorous bats. If, during the course of normal care routines, an individual at Bat World Sanctuary is bitten by an insectivorous bat in rehabilitation, the procedures outlined in the following protocol must be followed.

\*Note: We define a 'bite' as the bat perforating the glove and breaking the skin.

### **Bat Bite Protocol for Vaccinated Staff:**

- Staff members must immediately report the incident to the supervisor on duty
- Staff members will be given a rabies vaccine booster within 48 hours
- The bat will be vaccinated against rabies according to Bat World Sanctuary's established protocol
- The bat will be held in quarantine for 14 days
- If, at the end of the quarantine period, the bat remains asymptomatic for rabies, it will be returned to the population of bats in rehabilitative care if it has not sufficiently recovered from illness or injury to warrant release or if the weather is not suitable for release.
- If the weather permits and the bat has fully recovered from injury or illness, it will be released
- If the bat develops symptoms of rabies, it will be humanely euthanized immediately and the staff member will receive a second booster