

# **Standard Operating Procedure (SOP):**

## **BAT Capture and Collection Protocol**

**Effective Date: 7/31/2025 (revised as needed)**

**Prepared By: Environmental Health and Safety Office (EHS)**

**Approved By: Carl Taz Winger, EHS Director**

### **1. Purpose**

To provide standardized procedures for the humane, safe, and legal collection of bats on university property for research, health monitoring, or conservation purposes.

### **2. Scope**

This SOP applies to all faculty, students, researchers, and staff involved in bat capture, handling, data collection, and release or transport. It covers both active (netting) and passive (roost monitoring) collection methods.

### **3. Responsibilities**

- **Principal Investigator (PI) or Project Lead:** Ensures proper permits, ethics approvals, and training.
- **Field Team Members:** Conduct all activities in accordance with the SOP.
- **Campus Safety/Facilities Management:** Assist with logistics and public communication if needed.

### **4. Equipment & Supplies**

- Leather gloves and nitrile gloves (double-gloving recommended)
- Sterile clear containers
- Disinfectants
- First aid kit (If needed)
- PPE

### **5. Procedure**

- Notify a facilities supervisor prior to performing a bat
- If there is any possibility of human contact with the bat, notify DPS at 315.443.2224
- Avoid direct skin contact with the bat
- If possible, confine the bat to one room (close the windows, the room and closet doors)
- Turn on lights if the room is dark
- Wait for the bat to land
- Avoid damaging the bat's head (needed for testing)

## 5.1 Handling & Data Collection

- Always wear **gloves** and **PPE**.
- Minimize handling time
- Place individuals in clean, labeled holding containers if temporary retention is needed.

## 5.2 Release or Transport

- Release bats at capture site unless relocation is part of approved plan.
- Do not release visibly sick or injured animals; follow euthanasia or rehab procedures if necessary.
- Transport in ventilated containers if lab processing is required.

## 5.3 Decontamination

- Disinfect equipment and gloves

## 6. Safety Protocols

- All handlers must have **up-to-date rabies vaccination**.
- Avoid bites or scratches; report incidents immediately.

## 7. Waste Disposal

- Dispose of biological waste according to university biosafety regulations.

## 8. Documentation & Records

- Label the container holding the bat
  - Date, time, location (GPS), name of exposed individual (if available), your name, supervisor's name
- Submit data to relevant authorities or repositories as required.

## 9. Exposure Protocol

- If the bat encounters your bare skin while you are attempting to capture the bat
  - Contact ULPD immediately at 337-482-6447
  - Contact your supervisor
  - Complete a DA2000 Accident/ Illness report form

## 10. CONTACT INFORMATION

- **Environmental Health & Safety Office:**
  - Carl Taz Wininger 337-482-1840 | [safety@louisiana.edu](mailto:safety@louisiana.edu)
- **University Police/Emergency Services:**
  - 911 or 337-482-6447 | [police@louisiana.edu](mailto:police@louisiana.edu)
- **Animal Control:**
  - 311