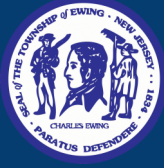


Spring 2022



About Ewing Township Animal Control

Officers work under the auspices of the Ewing Township Health Department. There are 2 full time officers who respond to over 600 complaints a year. Officers work to provide for public safety by preventing wildlife and nuisance animals from endangering the community.

Animal Control Emergencies

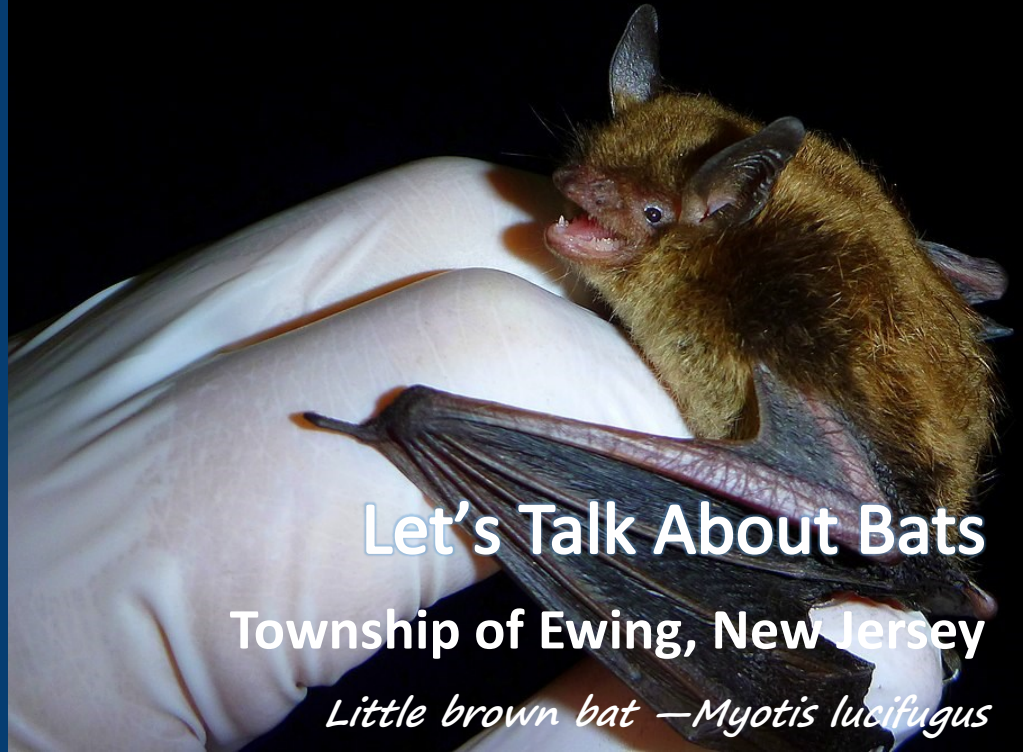
Phone:

609-883-2900 X7175

After hours call

609-882-1313

Officers are on call 24
hours a day, 7 days a
week, including week-
ends and holidays.



Let's Talk About Bats Township of Ewing, New Jersey

Little brown bat — Myotis lucifugus

Bats have been flying through our skies for more than fifty million years. From the tiny bumble bee bat of Thailand (the world's smallest mammal), to the flying fox bat of Australia and Southeast Asia with a six foot wing-span, there are over 1200 species comprising twenty-five percent of all mammals on earth. Bats are found on every continent except Antarctica. They are also the only mammal capable of true flight.

Worldwide, bats are divided into two main groups. The nectar and fruit feeding bats of the tropics and subtropics, and carnivorous bats whose diet may include insects, rodents, birds, amphibians, and fish. Seventy percent of all bats are insectivores including all those found in New Jersey.

New Jersey is home to 6 year-round species of bats and 3 migratory species. The big brown bat (*Eptesicus fuscus*), the little brown bat (*Myotis lucifugus*), and the eastern small footed bat (*M. leibii*) are the species most residents are likely to encounter as those species prefer to roost in manmade structures in the summer and hibernate there in the winter months.

The tri-colored bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*), the northern long eared bat (*M. septentrionalis*), and the endangered Indiana bat (*M. sodalis*) prefer roosting under the leafy branches of trees or in the cavities of dead and dying trees as well as leaf piles.

Our migratory species include the hoary bat (*Lasiurus cinereus*), eastern red bat (*L. borealis*), and the silver haired bat (*Lasionycterus noctivagans*). These species as well prefer the foliage of trees and bark crevices and are rarely seen in manmade structures. When migrating south for the winter

they follow similar routes as migratory birds. Eastern red bats and the silver haired bat are short distance migrants with the hoary bat traveling to subtropical and tropical climates.

Bats play an important role in our ecosystem. They are the only night predator of flying insects consuming 100% of their body weight a night amounting to 1200 insects per hour. This nonchemical pest control service provided by bats is valued at \$22.9 billion annually in the U.S. All species are protected under the **1973 NonGame and Endangered Species Act**. (16 U.S.C. §1531 et seq.)



Eastern small footed bat

Photo: By Paul Moosman - CC BY-SA 4.0

When encountering a bat inside the home, it's important to not panic. Bats are not aggressive and will not attack. Open windows and doors if possible. Bats will often cling to porous surfaces or curtains when resting. If this is the case, do not attempt to handle the bat, immediately call Animal Control for assistance. All bats captured in the living space of the home must be tested for the rabies virus. Statistically 1% of free-range bats carry the virus, while 4% to 7% of submitted specimens test positive.

● Never attempt to handle bats without heavy gloves! Bat bites are the size of an insect bite and may not be readily noticeable. Always contact your doctor after a suspected bat exposure. When cleaning bat roosting areas of bat guano, wear a mask and personal protection equipment as the guano may contain the Histoplasmosis fungus and spores may be released causing flu like symptoms.

● In recent years the bat population in New Jersey has been on a steep decline. The little brown bat population may be down as much as 90% due to white nose syndrome a disease caused by the cold loving fungus *Pseudogymnoascus destructans* contracted in caves and mines while hibernating and roosting. It's up to all of us to protect these species so important to our ecosystem and personal health.

Research materials

- Skylands Nature and Wildlife
- Rutgers Agricultural Experiment Station
- NJ Department of Health