

		LINCOLN-LANCASTER COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT			
Policy #: 300.67	Policy Title: Bat Infestation		Division: Animal Control		
Effective Date:		Authority:			
Council Resolution/ Ordinance: #	County Resolution #:	E.O.#		D.O.#	
	Supersedes:	Date	Action		
Next Review Date:					

**PURPOSE STATEMENT:**

1. To ensure the public and pets are protected from rabies exposure, Animal Control Officers will respond to calls within the City of Lincoln regarding bat(s).

**PROCEDURE:**

1. Animal Control dispatch staff will log calls regarding bats into the dispatch system and an Officer will be assigned the call.
2. On-call officers will be dispatched by 911 dispatch personnel for calls regarding bats after hours when the possibility of exposure exists.
3. Dispatch staff will notify the Division Manager and Field Supervisor when Animal Control has had more than 3 calls to the same property in a calendar year. The Animal Control officer will also notify the Division Manager and Field Supervisor when Animal Control has removed 5 or more bats on a single call from a single address. The occurrence of either scenario shall be deemed to indicate that the property has a bat infestation.
4. Owners of property deemed to have a bat infestation will be sent a certified letter through US mail from Animal Control requiring them to take appropriate action to eliminate the infestation (See Exhibit 1). Animal Control will monitor the 30 day period for removal of the bat infestation starting on the date staff receive confirmation that the certified letter has been delivered to the owner. If after 30 days, Animal Control has not been informed about the steps taken to eliminate the infestation, Animal Control shall attempt to contact the owner to make arrangements to inspect the property. If Animal Control determines that adequate steps have not been taken to eliminate the infestation, or if the property owner has not contacted Animal Control and cannot be reached after reasonable efforts are made by Animal Control to arrange for inspection of the property, the Health Director may send a letter to the Department of Building and Safety indicating the property is unfit for human occupancy. At that time, Building and Safety will contact the property owner, alerting them they have been notified by the Health Department of a violation of LMC 21.05.160 Subsection 108.1.3. The Department of Building and Safety will give the property owner up to an additional two weeks to eliminate the infestation after which time the occupants may be required to vacate the property.

5. Whenever possible Animal Control Officers will remove the bat(s) that had or potentially have had human contact or contact with a pet. Potential contact is defined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as: A person(s) who were in the same room as a bat and who might be unaware that a bite or direct contact had occurred (e.g. a sleeping person awakens to find a bat in the room or an adult witnesses a bat in the room with a previously unattended child, mentally disabled person, or intoxicated person.)

6. The bat(s) will be sent to a veterinary diagnostic laboratory or an accredited College of Veterinary Medicine that can perform rabies virus testing.

7. Results from the rabies tests will be sent to Animal Control and the victim or owner of a victim pet will be notified by Animal Control, Health Department Communicable Disease staff and the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services will also be contacted with test results that are positive for rabies.

8. If human or pet contact with a bat occurs and the bat is not able to be tested for rabies Health Department Communicable Disease Staff will be notified. They will be responsible for contacting the person(s) that had suspected contact with a bat(s).

9. When a pet has had contact with a bat and the bat cannot be tested, or the bat is not found the following procedures will be followed;

- Pets current on rabies vaccination will require the pet owner to take the pet to a licensed veterinarian for a rabies vaccine booster. Current rabies vaccinations will be determined by Animal Control.
- Pets that have had a rabies vaccination and the vaccination is expired the pet owner will be required to complete a 45 day home observation and complete a post bite examination by a licensed veterinarian at the end of 45 day observation. Follow up will be done by Animal Control with the veterinarian completing the examination.
- Pets that have never been vaccinated for rabies must be boarded with a veterinarian and held for a 6 month observation period. When complete the veterinarian will conduct an examination of the animal and provide a report with the results of that examination to Animal Control prior to releasing the animal. Any cost for boarding and daily care will the responsibility of the pet owner.

POLICY NUMBER 300.67

Exhibit 1

CERTIFIED MAIL

Date:

Name

Address

City of Lincoln, NE

I'm sending this letter regarding bats and bat related calls at: (address).

Animal Control has had more than three calls to your property at (address) in the past 12 or fewer months or Animal Control has removed 5 or more bats on a single call at this address. Animal Control was at your property on the following dates and times (dates/times). This indicates to Animal Control that the property has a bat infestation or bat colony and poses a public health threat.

We strongly recommend that you contact a wildlife removal specialist to permanently remove the bat(s) from the property. The presence of this number of bats in the property poses a potential health risk to those individuals that reside at the property and as the property owner, it is your responsibility to remove the bats and complete any repairs necessary to eliminate and prevent future bat infestations. If the property in question is a rental property we will notify the tenant that resides at your property about these concerns. The property owner must notify Lincoln Animal Control by US mail within 30 days of receipt of this letter indicating the steps that have been taken to eliminate the bat infestation. If the bat infestation is not removed in 30 days of receipt of this letter, the Department of Building and Safety will be contacted regarding any violations of Lincoln Municipal Code or the Uniform Housing Code.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Animal Control at 402-441-7900.

Sincerely,

Steve Beal, Manager  
Lincoln Animal Control

CC Building and Safety  
Tenant