

LYSSAVIRUS IS PREVENTABLE

- To catch ABLV from a bat you need to have contact with bat saliva onto broken skin or the mucous membranes of the eyes, nose or mouth. This commonly occurs through a bite or a scratch.
- ABLV can be fatal but immediate medical intervention to receive post-exposure vaccination can prevent the onset of the disease.
- ABLV is rare in bats but any bat may have the virus.

BATS ARE IMPORTANT

Bats are critically important to the health of our environment. There are two types of bats - Megabats and Microbats.

- Megabats keep our native forests healthy by pollinating and spreading seeds over long distances. They eat fruit and blossoms. Flying Foxes are one type of Megabat and we have 3 species in our region
- Microbats are great pest controllers for farmers and those who don't like to be bitten by mosquitoes and sandflies! They mainly eat insects and the Whitsundays is home to about 30 different species.

STAY SAFE



Black Flying Fox - Photo Dave Pinson

AUSTRALIAN BAT LYSSAVIRUS (ABLV)

**If you see a bat on its own it is probably sick,
injured or orphaned.**

DO NOT TOUCH BATS

Call Fauna Rescue Whitsundays on 4947 3389

**Wild animals can bite & scratch when scared -
they don't know you are trying to help them!**

KIDS

Never touch a bat -

if you find one tell an adult to ring FRW



Little Red Flying Fox - Photo Helen Douglas

If you get bitten or scratched by a bat -

Wash the wound with soap immediately and tell an adult urgently



Bats are cute but they can make you sick!



Black Flying Fox - Photo Dave Pinson

MUM & DAD

How to treat a bat bite or scratch!

1. Immediately wash the wound thoroughly with soap and water for at least five minutes.
2. If available apply an antiseptic with anti-virus action such as povidone-iodine, iodine tincture, aqueous iodine solution or alcohol (ethanol) after washing.
3. If bat saliva contacts the eyes, nose or mouth, it is necessary to flush the area thoroughly with water.
4. After washing the wound call a Doctor or hospital immediately to discuss being vaccinated for ABLV.