

# **Delaware General Health District**

## ***Dedicated to your health***

# NEWS RELEASE

## **RABID BAT FOUND INSIDE HOME IN VILLAGE OF SUNBURY**

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

For further information contact Jesse Carter, public information officer, at 740-203-2085.

**DELAWARE, Oh., August 16, 2010** – Another rabid bat has been discovered in Delaware County.

The bat was discovered alive recently inside a home in the village of Sunbury. The home's occupants were advised to consult their physician about possible precautionary treatments against rabies because of potential exposure to the bat. Fortunately, the family's dog had been vaccinated against rabies.

The bat was collected by Delaware General Health District personnel for rabies testing after the home occupants captured it. Late last week, the state health laboratory relayed that the bat carcass tested positive for the deadly disease.

This was the fourth rabid bat found in the Delaware General Health District so far this year, and the third one in eastern Delaware County. Rabid bats were found in July in Genoa Township and in May in the Village of Galena and in Radnor Township.

All area residents are reminded to take precautions against rabies:

- Make sure all pets and barn cats have up-to-date rabies vaccinations.
- Avoid contact with wild animals, particularly if they are behaving strangely.
- If you find a bat inside your home, shut it inside an unoccupied room. Wear heavy gloves and trap the bat inside a sturdy container against a wall or other surface. Slide a lid over the container and seal it so the bat cannot escape. Phone the Delaware General Health District at 740-368-1700 to arrange for pickup.