

**Delaware General Health District**  
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# NEWS RELEASE

## **RABID BAT BITES WORKMAN IN VILLAGE OF OSTRANDER**

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**DELAWARE, Oh., August 25, 2009** – A bat that bit a workman in the Village of Ostrander Monday morning tested positive for rabies.

The man is receiving precautionary treatment against rabies.

The man was bitten Monday morning, August 25, as he was moving a roll of carpet outside a house on Huston Street in Ostrander. The bat was captured, and a Delaware General Health District sanitarian delivered it to the state laboratory for testing. The test results were announced this morning.

Four rabid bats have been discovered in Delaware County since late July, two of them in the City of Delaware. The latest incident marks the third time this year that a person in Delaware County was given precautionary rabies treatment because of possible exposure to infectious saliva. The other two incidents involved another bat encounter and a man whom a State Wildlife Officer found hand-feeding baby raccoons.

All area residents are reminded to make sure their pets are vaccinated against rabies, and to be on the lookout for bats and other wildlife displaying unusual behavior. Rabies is a viral disease that attacks mammals' nervous systems. In humans, it is fatal unless treated.

Extreme caution needs to be exercised when capturing a live bat for testing. Shut the bat in a room. Once it lands, cover it with a plastic pail or other sturdy container, and then slide stiff cardboard over the opening and tape it shut securely. Always wear heavy leather gloves when you might come into contact with a bat or any other wildlife species whether it is alive or dead.

For additional information or to ask about getting a bat tested, call the Health District Residential Services Unit at 740-368-1700.

