



# BAT EXCLUSION AUTHORIZATION APPLICATION

The purpose of this permit is to address situations where there is an immediate human health and safety risk.

**Landowner Information:**

_____		
LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	TELEPHONE No.
STREET ADDRESS (Physical Location)		CITY
	STATE	ZIP CODE
COUNTY (Physical Location)	E-MAIL ADDRESS (used to receive authorization)	

**Exclusion Location:**

CHECK BOX IF SAME AS ABOVE

STREET ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER OF BATS OBSERVED: Watch #1: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Watch #2: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

EXCLUSION METHOD: \_\_\_\_\_

NUISANCE CONTROL OPERATOR HIRED?  YES  NO

**If yes,**

NUISANCE CONTROL OPERATOR BUSINESS NAME \_\_\_\_\_ LICENSE No. \_\_\_\_\_

NUISANCE CONTROL OPERATOR CONTACT NAME \_\_\_\_\_ TELEPHONE No. \_\_\_\_\_

By signing below, the applicant certifies that this application is made in good faith with the statements made herein being true; that they have read and understand the requirements contained in Ohio Revised Code Section 1531.40 and Ohio Administrative Code 1501:31-15-03 and that any falsification of information herein may result in denial or revocation of the permit. The applicant acknowledges that the laws governing this permit may change periodically and they will maintain a knowledge and understanding of all laws pertaining to this permit (Reference: codes.ohio.gov/).

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Applicant's Signature*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

Mail this application to: ODNR Division of Wildlife  
Attn: Bat Exclusion Permits  
2045 Morse Rd., Bldg. G  
Columbus, OH 43229

Or to expedite the process, email to:  
Wildlife.permits@dnr.state.oh.us  
with "BAT EXCLUSION – [YOUR NAME]" in the subject line.

**\*ALLOW 5 BUSINESS DAYS FOR PROCESSING.**

## BAT EXCLUSION GUIDELINES

**Background:** The purpose of this permit is to address situations where human health and safety is at risk. The exclusion of more than 15 individual bats from a structure during the time period of May 16<sup>th</sup> through July 31<sup>st</sup> requires written authorization from the Division of Wildlife (DOW) under Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) 1501:31-15-03. This restricted period is put in place to protect bats and their flightless pups during the maternity period. Exclusions conducted during this time often cause more trouble than simply waiting until pups are able to fly (August). Not only will the exclusion result in dead pups, but frantic mothers attempting to get back to their young often find their way into living spaces. However, for health and safety reasons, exclusion may be warranted.

The DOW has been delegated the responsibility under Ohio Revised Code (R.C.) Section 1531.02 to protect all wild animals and wild quadrupeds held in the public's trust, making it unlawful for any unauthorized take of these animals. "Take", as defined in R.C. 1531.01, is a broad definition and includes "every attempt to kill or capture and every act of assistance to any other person in killing or capturing or attempting to kill or capture a wild animal." It is illegal to kill a bat for any reason unless a bite or potential exposure to rabies has occurred.

While all of Ohio's bat species are protected under this law, the DOW recognizes there may be times when human health or safety is at risk. As such, OAC 1501:31-15-03 outlines allowable actions the public may take for nuisance wild animal control, including the removal of unwanted bats from a man-made structure.

**Allowable Exclusion Activities:** If bats are entering the living space inside of a building (i.e., from attic access into a bedroom), these interior routes may be sealed or blocked at any time without a permit. However, unless otherwise approved by the DOW, exterior routes may not be sealed without first installing an exclusion device. The only allowable methods of bat removal are non-lethal exclusion devices or materials that allow the one-way passage of bats out of the home or structure. The use of glue traps and sealing all entry/exit points while bats are inside the structure, are illegal. Bats may not be intentionally killed or harmed unless rabies exposure is suspected.

Exclusion devices must be left in place for at least one week. Following a final bat watch where no bats are seen exiting the structure, the device may be removed, and entrance sealed within the same day to prevent bats from reentering.

**Who:** Property owners and licensed/certified nuisance wild animal control operators may perform bat exclusions. It is illegal for a non-licensed person to receive compensation to perform bat exclusions.

**Authorization Request Process:** Before applying for bat exclusion authorization, the property owner or designee must 1) inspect the structure for bats; and 2) perform two bat watches at the structure for one hour at dawn and/or one hour at dusk within a 7-day period. If 14 or fewer bats are observed each night and/or found to be present, exclusion may occur at any time of year. If 15 or more bats are observed on at least one night and/or found to be present between May 16-July 31 and the property owner cannot wait to exclude them until after July 31<sup>st</sup>, the property owner/designee may apply for bat exclusion authorization. The DOW will consider immediate exclusion in situations where human health and safety is at risk. Applicants must allow 5-business days for review and processing.

**Rabies:** Bats may not be killed or euthanized unless a bite or potential exposure to rabies has occurred. If rabies is suspected in a bat or a bite cannot be ruled out, contact your doctor and follow instructions of the Ohio Department of Health or your local county health district for preserving and submitting the bat carcass for testing.

**Please contact 1-800-WILDLIFE with questions regarding bat exclusion authorization.**