



#### The Risk of Rabies for Bat Handlers

A small number of bats in the UK carry a rabies-like virus called European Bat Lyssavirus (EBLV). The risk of EBLV infection to humans is thought to be low, however CIEEM works with our training providers to raise awareness and manage the potential risk of infection.

Anyone who regularly handles bats (i.e. bat rehabilitators, roost visitors or those handling bats in a professional capacity) should be vaccinated against rabies. Delegates at CIEEM's Bat Handling and Identification training require an **up to date vaccination** against rabies in order to take part in practical bat handling during the course.

#### The Vaccine

The pre-exposure schedule for rabies vaccination is **three doses**, given at the following times:

- Dose 1: As appropriate
- Dose 2: 7 days after Dose 1
- Dose 3: 21 days or 28 days after Dose 1

To maintain immunity further doses of the vaccine are needed to as follows:

- A single reinforcing dose of vaccine should be given one year after the first course is completed.
- Further doses should be given at three- to five-year intervals after that.

Vaccinations are available free of charge to volunteers and those handling bats in a professional capacity in England and Wales. More information can be found at here:

[http://www.bats.org.uk/pages/-bats\\_and\\_rabies-1099.html#bat\\_handler](http://www.bats.org.uk/pages/-bats_and_rabies-1099.html#bat_handler)

**N.B. All delegates attending CIEEM Bat Handling and Identification training will be asked to show their certificate of vaccination to the training provider and/or sign a declaration to confirm that they are currently vaccinated against Rabies.**

#### Anti-tetanus vaccination

Anyone working with animals or outdoors should be up-to-date with their anti-tetanus vaccination.

Tetanus is caused by a bacterium getting into the body through cuts and scrapes, animal bites and eye injuries. Wounds containing dirt or foreign objects are the most likely cause. Most people are vaccinated 5 times during childhood and should have subsequent booster vaccinations every ten years after that. More information on tetanus and the anti-tetanus vaccination is available at

<http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/tetanus/pages/introduction.aspx#causes>