



County of Yolo

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

137 N Cottonwood Street
Woodland, CA 95695
PHONE - (530) 666-8645
FAX - (530) 666-8674

Bette G. Hinton, M.D. M.P.H
Director – Health Officer

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Contact: Bette G. Hinton, M.D., M.P.H., Director/Health Officer
Phone: (530) 666-8645

Several Rabid Bats Found in Winters Recreational Area

Woodland, CA—A recent environmental health investigation revealed several rabies-positive bats in the Winters area. These animals were recovered under the bridge over Putah Creek adjacent to the Canyon Creek Resort recreational area. The investigation began when a local bat rescue organization alerted the Yolo County Health Department that one of the local residents in the area who was attempting a bat rescue was bitten during the process. Nine bats were brought into the Health Department for testing, and seven have been confirmed positive with rabies.

“This is a perfect example of what we do not want people to do” states Bette Hinton, Yolo County Health Department Director-Health Officer. Individuals who attempt to rescue sick or injured bats are at very high risk for being exposed to rabies. “Bats that are falling from their roosting places or laying on the ground in daylight are more likely to be infected with rabies, and these are precisely the animals you want to avoid.” she says.

Environmental health investigators have posted warning signs at the resort and surrounding areas. “We want to make sure everyone knows that there have been numerous rabies-positive bats in the area, and encourage people to avoid any kind of interaction with bats – sick, dead or alive.” states Bruce Sarazin, Director of the Environmental Health Division of the health department.

If you, your child, or pet have come in contact with a bat, immediately report it to Yolo County Animal Control at (530) 668-5287 and the Yolo County Health Department at (530) 666-8646 during regular business hours. For evenings and weekends, contact Yolo County Communications at (530) 666-8920.

For more information about bats and rabies, visit the Health Department web site at www.yolohealth.org and look for Bulletins under Environmental Health.

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