Ohio Pest Management Association
136 South Keowee Street
Dayton, Ohio 45402
Phone: (937) 424-3300
Fax: (937) 222-5794 E-mail: info@ohiopma.org * www.ohiopma.org
Contact: Sheila Westfall- Preston
Association Executive

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Do Bats Make You “Batty?”

Bats can be a public health menace, and their feces can be toxic. Bats are also a beneficial animal to the ecosystem and a protected species of our wildlife. Therefore, it is important to have an experienced pest management professional (PMP) that is able to eliminate bats without harming them. Bat exclusion programs are available within many pest management companies for homes, buildings and commercial properties. When dealing with bats, using a PMP that has an expertise in bats is best. A well-trained technician will be able to come out to your home or property to inspect the building and find out how the bats are gaining access. After a thorough identification of the entry areas where the problem originates, the technician will develop a way to get the bats out and then create a solution so that the bats cannot get back in. It is normal for a bat to want to return to a place where it has inhabited, so all the necessary measures must be taken to make sure that the bats are not able to return.

When you first realize that a bat is inside of your home or facility, do not try to trap the bat. This can be not only dangerous to you, but it also very harmful to the bat. The first part of bat exclusion is to get the bat to fly out and then seal the building so that it cannot enter again. The Ohio Department of Natural Resources says you should first, “Close interior doors, confine it to one room if possible, and open a window or exterior door. The bat will leave as soon as it locates the exit. If the bat lands on a curtain or piece of furniture, cover it with a jar or a towel, or pick it up with a leather glove, and release it outdoors. Determine how the bat got into the house and seal the openings.”

The most important part of a bat removal is having the proper control to keep the bats from gaining entrance again. An example of this is a one-way door that can be made out of a section of netting or similar material that is attached to the house or the side of a building. The Maryland Department of Natural Resources suggests that “Once the bat entrances are identified, wait until September 1st to install one-way bat doors so that the bats can exit but not get
back in. This successful design for a one-way door was developed and field-tested by Dr. Stephen C. Frantz, the senior research scientist for the New York State Department of Health.” The way to keep control over the bat exclusion is by making sure that you get all of the bats out and get all of the holes sealed up. Bat jobs vary in control methods and exclusion styles. Each bat job must be treated differently, because houses and buildings are never going to be exactly the same. Experienced and skilled technicians will have creative ways of letting the bats out without letting them back in. animal-proof the building.

If you have had a bat infestation in your home or building, a thorough clean up should be done once you have successfully excluded them. Bats have a good sense of smell and are able to smell old feces and urine, which they can be attracted to again. Clean up should be done by a professional to make sure it is done correctly. Humans can contract a respiratory infection from fungal spores that originate in bat waste. Many bat species are protected, so it is always best to contact a licensed professional who understands how to deal with a protected species. To find a PMP in your area, please visit www.ohiopma.org. If you have questions about bat removal and other pest related issues, you may send an email to info@ohiopma.org.