



City of Los Angeles  
**Animal Services**



**50 RABID Bats CONFIRMED in Los Angeles this Year**  
**World Rabies Day—September 28, 2012**

According to The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, a record-high of 50 rabid bats have been confirmed in Los Angeles this year.

To protect both the community and pets, it is important that all dogs and cats be vaccinated against rabies. Each year, rabid bats are found inside homes, so even indoor only pets are at risk and should be vaccinated.

The Southern California Veterinary Medical Association (SCVMA) wants to help protect dogs and cats. A number of SCVMA member hospitals in the region will be administering FREE RABIES VACCINATIONS to qualified dogs and cats in the area. There are no restrictions on cats. Dogs must have a current license OR the pet must be licensed at the time of the administration of the FREE RABIES VACCINATION.

A list of participating hospitals is available at [www.scvma.org](http://www.scvma.org) on the front page under: WORLD RABIES DAY. Check with each hospital to find out their examination requirements and if there will be a charge for the examination performed with the FREE RABIES vaccination.

On average there are usually only 10 positive rabid bats discovered per year. The majority of bats do not carry rabies and these animals play an important environmental role by feeding on insects and controlling insect populations. For more information about bat exclusions, visit <http://www.batcon.org/index.php/bats-a-people/bats-in-buildings.html>

For more information about rabies and rabid bats, visit The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health's Veterinary Public Health webpage at <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/vet/rabiesmap2012.htm>