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## A â€˜Gentleâ€™ Boot for Wayward Bats



Barbara French, Bat Conservation Internationalâ€™s Science Officer, gets the same frantic call fairly often: â€œHow do I get this bat out of my house?â€ Her first task is to calm the caller, reports *The Times* of Northwest Indiana. The newspaper, published in Munster, described the process under a headline that said, â€œGive Bats a (Gentle) Boot Back into the Night.â€

â€œBats,â€ the paper said, â€œare beset by bad press and luck.â€ Most of them, in fact, eat enormous amounts of insects, with a single little brown myotis consuming up to 1,200 mosquito-sized insects per hours.

When a lone bat invades your home, French told *The Times*, itâ€™s most likely â€œa lost youngster.â€ Bats donâ€™t want to be in your living space and want nothing so much as getting out. â€œItâ€™s always an accident when a bat gets into a living area,â€ she said.

Donâ€™t touch the bat, but give it a route outside and encourage its departure. Shoo the kids and pets away and shut the door after them. If the batâ€™s flapping around, the paper says, follow it, shutting doors behind you until it retreats to one room. Open a window or door to the outside, stand patiently in a corner and wait for the stray to exit.

â€œThe batâ€™s not going to try to get you,â€ French says. â€œItâ€™s going to fly around and around until figure out how to get out.â€

If the bat stays put or winds up in a windowless room, try the shoebox approach, the story says. Bats are rather easy to catch, so when it lands, simply cover it with a shoebox (or coffee can, cooking pot or similar container), slide a piece of cardboard underneath to cover the opening and take the whole thing outside to release the bat.

For much more information on removing bats from homes, attics and buildings, visit BCIâ€™s website: [Batcon.org](http://Batcon.org)

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