



NEWS

For immediate release | 7.17.26

Media Contact:

Gia Krupens | Communications Coordinator
559.577.3757 | gkrupens@fcz.org

FRESNO CHAFFEE ZOO REMINDS THE PUBLIC ON THE IMPORTANCE OF BAT SAFETY

FRESNO, CA — California is home to one of the most diverse bat faunas with 26 bat species. Many of these species are threatened or endangered due to loss of habitat and white-nose syndrome. These incredible animals play an important role in our ecosystem. A single bat can eat thousands of insects each night, providing natural pest control that benefits people, pets, and agriculture. While bats are incredibly beneficial to their environment, they can also, unfortunately, be carriers of the rabies virus.

This week, Fresno Chaffee Zoo staff discovered two deceased bats on Zoo grounds. In accordance with established Zoo protocols, each bat was immediately reported to the Zoo's veterinary team and submitted for rabies testing. Test results confirmed that the bats were positive for rabies.

The health and safety of our guests, staff, volunteers, and animals remains our highest priority. Fresno Chaffee Zoo maintains comprehensive safety protocols, including rabies vaccination for staff whose work may involve potential exposure and for animal species for which an approved rabies vaccine is available. These established measures, combined with ongoing monitoring and veterinary oversight, help ensure the continued safety of everyone at the Zoo.

The discovery serves as an important reminder that rabies is endemic to the Fresno area and members of the public should never approach, touch, or handle bats or any wild animal, whether at the Zoo or elsewhere. If an animal appears sick, injured, or is behaving unusually, individuals should maintain a safe distance and contact their local animal control or wildlife authorities.

###

"Fresno Chaffee Zoo inspires people to care for animals, create connections, build community, and save wildlife."