How to capture a bat:

When to capture a bat:

- If contact between a person and a bat may have occurred, even if no wounds can be seen.

- If a bat is found close to a sleeping person, an unattended young child, a mentally incapacitated person, or a pet.

Items needed for a bat capture kit:

You can find most of the following items at hardware stores or home & garden centers.

- **Gloves** – heavy, preferably pliable, thick leather
- **Kitchen tongs** – 9-12 inches long
- **Coffee can or similar container** – preferably with a tight-fitting lid.
- **Sheet of cardboard**
- **Tape**
- **Net** – with fine mesh and long handle.
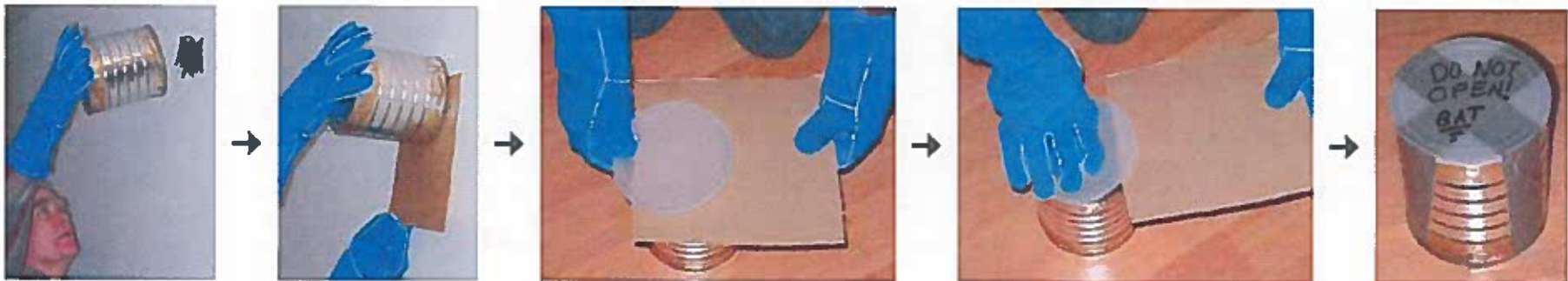- **Flashlight** – to locate the bat without scaring the animal and causing it to fly around in alarm.

How to capture a bat on a wall:

Use a container – Close all the doors and windows in the room then wait until the bat lands. Approach slowly, placing the container over the bat. Slide the cardboard between the wall and the container, lifting away from the wall as a unit. Slowly slide the cardboard off the container while simultaneously slipping on the appropriately sized lid. Tape the lid to the container so the bat can not escape and label the container so it is not accidentally opened. Contact your local board of health.

How to capture a bat in a high place or in flight:

Use a net – Bats are very sensitive to movement around them. To capture a bat with a net you have to come from behind. Transfer the bat to a container with forceps or thick leather gloves.

Avoid doing anything that might crush the bat's skull and make it unsuitable for testing.

- Major home renovations and sealing should be done during the month of May or from August 1 through mid-October, when most bats have left to hibernate or have raised their young.

- Make sure windows have screens, chimneys are capped, and electrical and plumbing openings are plugged.

- Do not leave unscreened doors or windows open.

- Seal up all openings larger than 5/8 inches by 7/8 inches into the attic, basement, walls, or occupied areas of the house.

- Use materials such as expanding spray-on foam, caulk, wire mesh, wood that fits tightly, steel wool (around pipes that enter buildings), or polypropylene bird netting, to seal or cover gaps and holes.