

## Eighth Daubenton's Case of EBLV2 Confirmed.

A Daubenton's bat found dead in Shropshire was sent to the Veterinary Laboratories Agency in Weybridge and tested positive for European Bat Lyssavirus 2 (a strain of rabies). Daubenton's bat remains the only species of bat to have tested positive for EBLV2 in this country.

As ever it bears reiterating that it's very easy *not* to catch rabies from a bat. The disease is rare in bats anyway but you should always err on the side of caution. You won't get infected if you don't get bitten and you won't get bitten if you don't pick up a bat. If you do get bitten by a bat visit a doctor immediately.

### Daubenton's Bat Experiment.

You may recall the Daubenton's Bat/EBVL2 experiment, which hit the news two years ago, of which many bat lovers were critical. The results have been published in the Journal of General Virology. An online abstract is available at

<http://vir.sgmjournals.org/cgi/content/abstract/89/11/2662?etoc>

The aim was to "investigate the disease in its natural host under experimental conditions, to assess its virulence, dissemination and likely means of transmission." During infection, virus excretion in saliva was confirmed up to 3 days before the development of rabies. It came as something of a surprise to read the last sentence of the abstract, "We conclude that EBLV-2 is most likely transmitted in saliva by a shallow bite," as everybody thought that was known already.