

Euthanasia of Bats Using Inhalant Anesthetic

(Updated September 2026)

Acceptable Inhalant anesthetics (liquid form): isoflurane, sevoflurane, halothane, enflurane, methoxyflurane and desflurane

Methods:

1. Insert a cotton ball into the plastic casing used as packaging for a 6ml syringe and then pour 5.0ml of Isoflurane or Sevoflurane onto the cotton ball.
2. Place the syringe casing with soaked cotton inside a sealable plastic container, coffee can or heavy-duty zipper-closure plastic bag.
3. Place the collection container (with the bat inside) into the container and close tightly. Allow sufficient time for the anesthetic gas to cause euthanasia (15 min to 1 hour).
4. Once the bat is no longer breathing, moving or able to be stimulated by gentle movement of the container, you may safely remove it from the container and prepare for shipment to the lab.
5. See IDOH document for specific shipping guidelines.

