White-Nose Syndrome:
Information for Nuisance Wildlife Control Operators

As a Nuisance Wildlife Control Operator (NWCO), you have an important role in slowing the spread of White-Nose Syndrome. Because of your job, it is likely you may be contacted about bats on private property. Whether the bats are alive, dead or showing strange behavior, it is important to be well-informed about White-Nose Syndrome and its signs and symptoms.

For a complete description of White-Nose Syndrome, visit the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service website at http://www.fws.gov/WhiteNoseSyndrome/about.html

When investigating a bat on someone's property, check the bat for the presence of bands or small devices. Bats with these materials are likely being studied and tracked by biologists. **If you find a bat with either of these, contact the Iowa Department of Natural Resources at (515) 281-8524.**

If no equipment is attached to the bat but you believe the bat may be infected with White-Nose Syndrome, the most important action is to **contact someone first** before handling the bat. Please notify one of the following agencies:

- Iowa Department of Natural Resources: kelly.poole@dnr.iowa.gov
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:
  http://www.fws.gov/WhiteNoseSyndrome/about.html
  1-800-344-9453

When handling a bat with possible White-Nose Syndrome:

- Pick up the bat with a plastic bag over your gloved hand or use disposable gloves over thicker gloves.
- Place both the bat and the bag into another plastic bag, spray with disinfectant, close the bag securely, and dispose of it with your garbage.
- Thoroughly wash your hands and follow the decontamination protocol as described on the White-Nose Syndrome website of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

Although there is no known risk to humans from White-Nose Syndrome, it is necessary to take precautions when handling bats, whether dead or alive, and to avoid all possible exposure with the disease. Not only will this prevent any unforeseen health problems, it will also minimize transmission of the disease to other geographic areas or bats.