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BAT MATERNITY SEASON AND THE FLORIDA LAW

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PROPERTY MANAGERS

IN FLORIDA, all species of bat are protected from being harmed. This is primarily because of their great importance to the balance of our ecosystem and their unmatched contribution to managing the mosquito population. This legislation applies all year-round.

HOWEVER, because bats can also pose some potentially serious health risks to people when their colonies take-up residence in our buildings, expert companies such as Winged Wildlife Control/Friends of Bats are permitted to perform humane exclusions during much of the year. The methodologies employed ensure that the animals vacate the buildings safely and our guarantee makes certain that they cannot return.

NEVERTHELESS, there is an extended period of time during which even companies such as ourselves, despite being Registered Nuisance Wildlife Trappers with Florida's Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission, are FORBIDDEN to perform such exclusions. This period is referred to as: **BAT MATERNITY SEASON**

THIS IS BECAUSE bats are mammals – they give birth to live young and suckle their babies ("pups"). If an exclusion were to be performed when the newly born pups are present and as yet unable to fly, they would be separated from their mothers and die in the roost. This period extends from: **APRIL 16th THROUGH AUGUST 14th**. The applicable legislation can be found in:

The Relevant 2007 Florida Statutes (Title XLVI Crimes Chapter 828.12)

775.082 (1) First Degree Misdemeanor
775.082 (2) Third Degree Felony

Nuisance Wildlife Rule Changes Effective July 1, 2008

68A-9.010 (d) Maternity Season Definition

DURING BAT MATERNITY SEASON, we are still permitted to work on adjacent un-infested buildings and on un-infested areas of colonized buildings.

The above information is provided by Winged Wildlife Control/Friends of Bats in order to ensure both the safety of our customers and of our wildlife and to help prevent accidental infraction of our Florida laws.

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