

# Why you shouldn't check email on Mother's Day ...or why you should?

*“Multidisciplinary team structure of a tribal community paramedic program allows for rapid coordinated approach to urgent public health concern”*

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# CAA18 Congress

Incorporating IRCP 6 - 9 August  
Hilton Auckland New Zealand

*The Patient: At the centre of everything we do*  
*Ko te tūroto: Ki te pokapū o matou mahi*



[caa.net.au](http://caa.net.au)







## Detailed Report:

### Detailed Summary

- Briefed by D. C de Baca
- Body transport from Rust Medical to ACL morgue completed by R3.
- D. Nunez advised of issued equipment.
- Units checked. Light on passenger side broken. On truck check, pump would not start. FF C. Espinosa was able to find a fuse in the engine that was not attached right and was able to fix it. Pump is now working.
- Meds checked.
- ACL called requesting IFT for a female with vertigo. Advised them that as soon as our other unit was back in district, we would send a unit. R1 transported patient to Presbyterian hospital.
- R3 was dispatched to Seboyeta for an "unattended death." Patient's caretaker advised that she came by because she had been trying to call him all day yesterday with no answer. She stated that she found him on the ground. Transport 1 responded from station one due to them just getting back from body transport. 1605 also responded in brush 1. On arrival LPD was on scene. Male was laying supine on the floor by his couch. Four lead was performed and showed asystole. Male was found to have no signs of life and signs of livor mortis. Cibola County SO arrived and took over scene. Units cleared.
- E2 & B1 were dispatched to a brush fire on I-40 MM 125. SPA arrived on scene as well. Fire was put out and hot spots were cooled. Made contact with Angelo from SPA who advised that the fire was 0.681 acres.
- R1 responded to Paraje for a male who got bit by a bat. No obvious injuries, bite marks, or swelling were noted to patient. He was advised to keep the area that he was bit clean and to wash it with soap and water for a few days. Patient did not wish to be transported to hospital.
- E2 was washed and hose was clean after brush fire.

- R1 responded to Paraje for a male who got bit by a bat. No obvious injuries, bite marks, or swelling were noted to patient. He was advised to keep the area that he was bit clean and to wash it with soap and water for a few days. Patient did not wish to be transported to hospital.

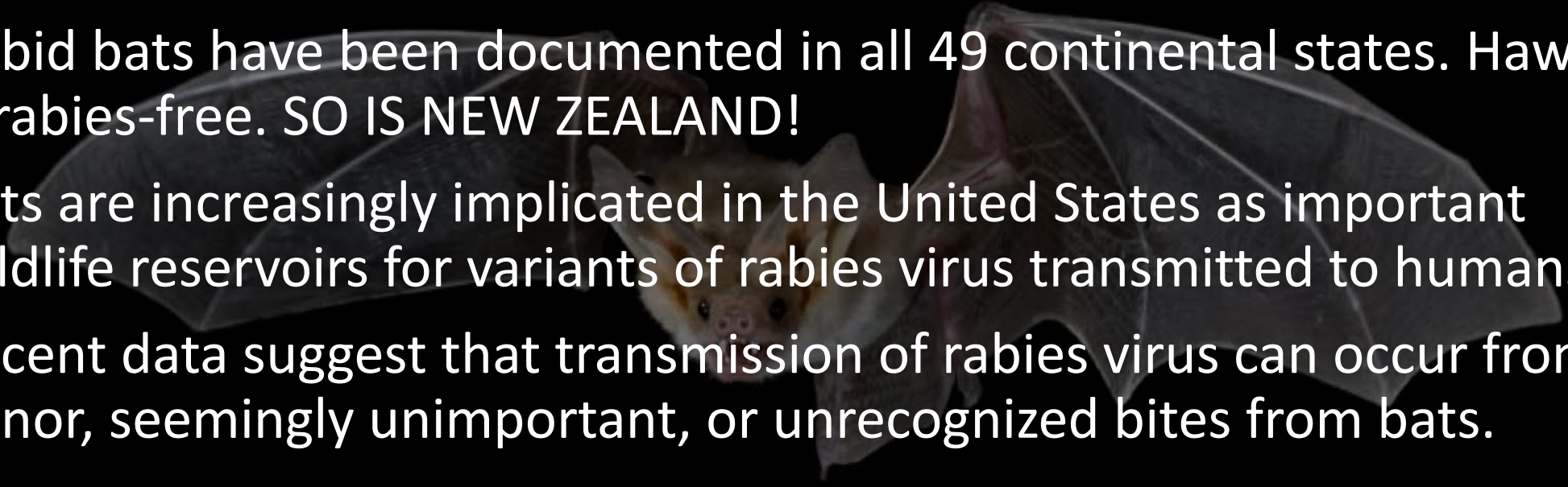


RABIES

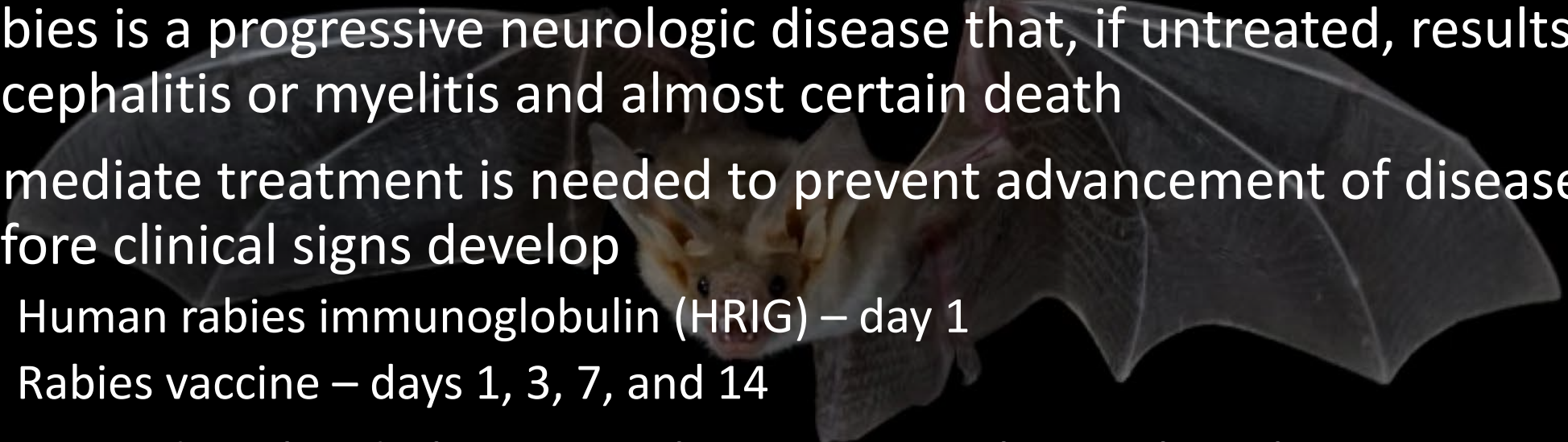


# Welcome to New Zealand!

- Rabid bats have been documented in all 49 continental states. Hawaii is rabies-free. SO IS NEW ZEALAND!
- Bats are increasingly implicated in the United States as important wildlife reservoirs for variants of rabies virus transmitted to humans.
- Recent data suggest that transmission of rabies virus can occur from minor, seemingly unimportant, or unrecognized bites from bats.



# This is not a talk about rabies, but...

- Rabies is a progressive neurologic disease that, if untreated, results in encephalitis or myelitis and almost certain death
  - Immediate treatment is needed to prevent advancement of disease, before clinical signs develop
    - Human rabies immunoglobulin (HRIG) – day 1
    - Rabies vaccine – days 1, 3, 7, and 14
  - So to read in the daily report that a patient bitten by a bat was released without transport was *very concerning*
- 



Day 1 (day 2, actually)

New Message

Cancel

To: Tina Sarracino

Ok.... we'll go look for him, hopefully he's sober. Yesterday he didn't want to go anywhere, he thought we could treat him....

I hope you find him. Please do your best, could be truly life-saving to get him somewhere he can get the vaccine. Rabies transmission rate from bat bites is very high

Ok...will do.

New Message

Cancel

To: Tina Sarracino

So this is an odd question, he had the bat with him in a bag yesterday and said he was going to keep it incase he did have something.....will they want to see it abq? Or just bury the thing?

Keep the bat and bring it! Don't touch it! Make sure it's dead and triple bag it. They will send it to the state labs for necropsy and rabies testing

Ok....



Text Message

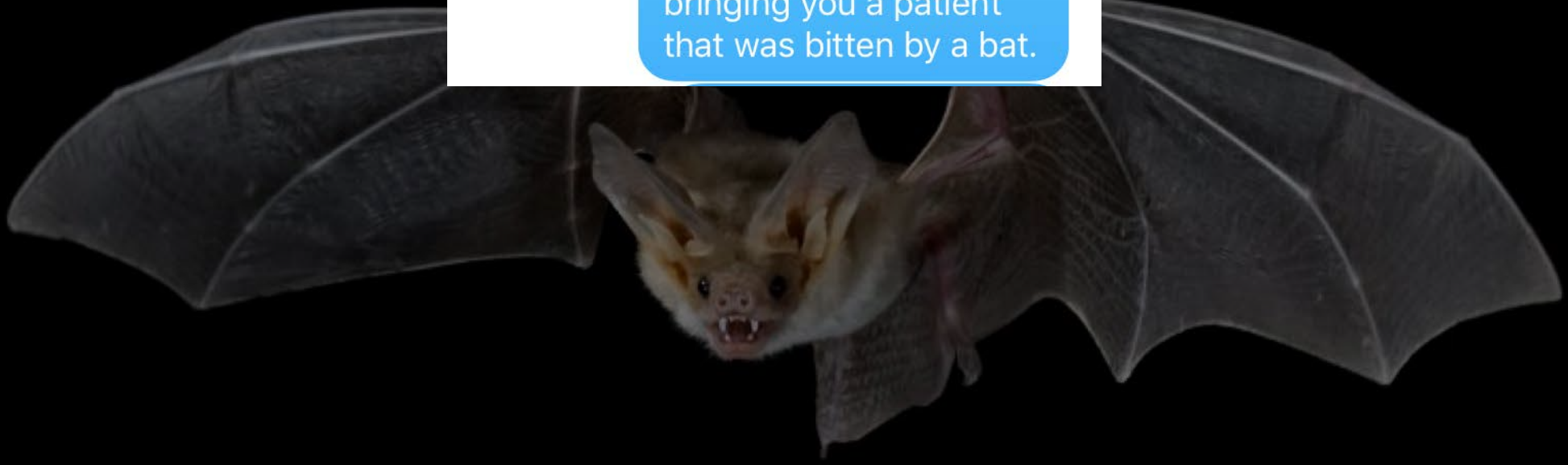


New iMessage

Cancel

To: Andy Berglund

Hi Andy, Laguna is bringing you a patient that was bitten by a bat.



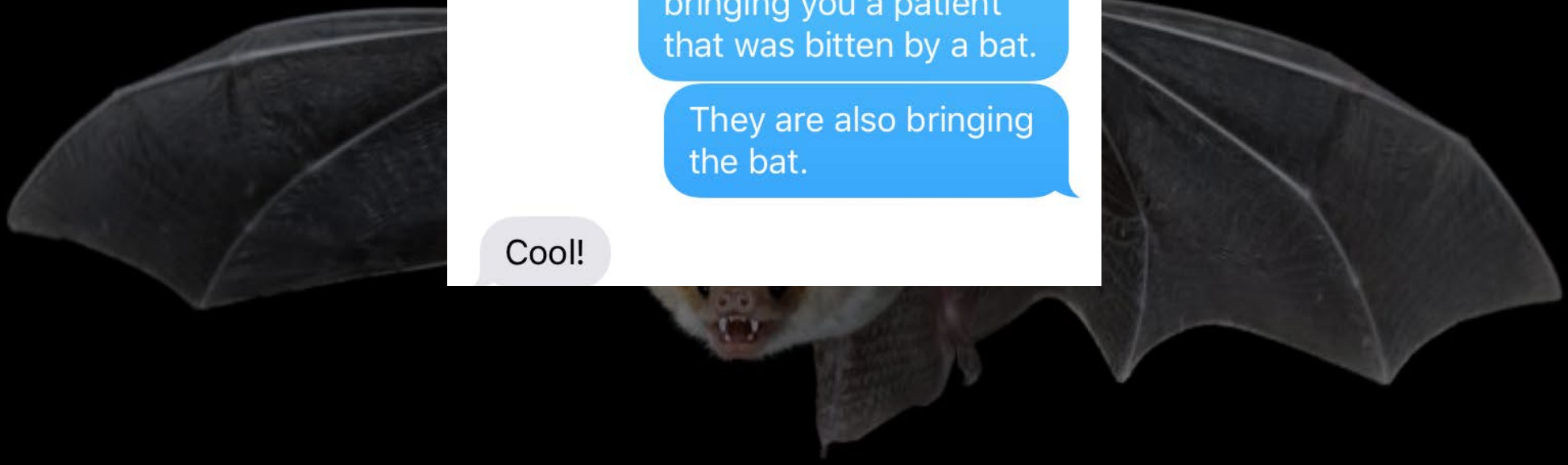
New iMessage Cancel

To: Andy Berglund

Hi Andy, Laguna is bringing you a patient that was bitten by a bat.

They are also bringing the bat.

Cool!



New iMessage

Cancel

To: Andy Berglund

I am not sure how to send a bat to the lab for testing but that's what needs to happen.

1st round of rabies shots too, etc., of course

Be on the lookout, they will be looking for you.

ETA ~45-60.



New iMessage

Cancel

To: Andy Berglund

I am not sure how to send a bat to the lab for testing but that's what needs to happen.

1st round of rabies shots too, etc., of course

Be on the lookout, they will be looking for you.

ETA ~45-60.

Pretty sure the bat is dead.

Ok

New Message

Cancel

To: Tina Sarracino

Thank you...

.I feel bad about not getting him here yesterday, but he was intoxicated and didn't want to go anywhere. He's more cooperative today.

It happens!

Too bad you couldn't find the bat. Would have made the story better!

New Message

Cancel

To: Tina Sarracino

Thank you...

.I feel bad about not getting him here yesterday, but he was intoxicated and didn't want to go anywhere. He's more cooperative today.

It happens!

Too bad you couldn't find the bat. Would have made the story better!

I know....think something ate it already.



Text Message



New iMessage

Cancel

To: Andy Berglund

They just informed me that they are coming without the bat. Apparently he saved it but they couldn't find it this morning. Bummer.

Dang. That made this easy case more difficult.

Haha. No. Just give him the shot today and arrange bulletproof follow up.

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Cancel

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Dang. That made this easy case more difficult.

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Lol bulletproof followup



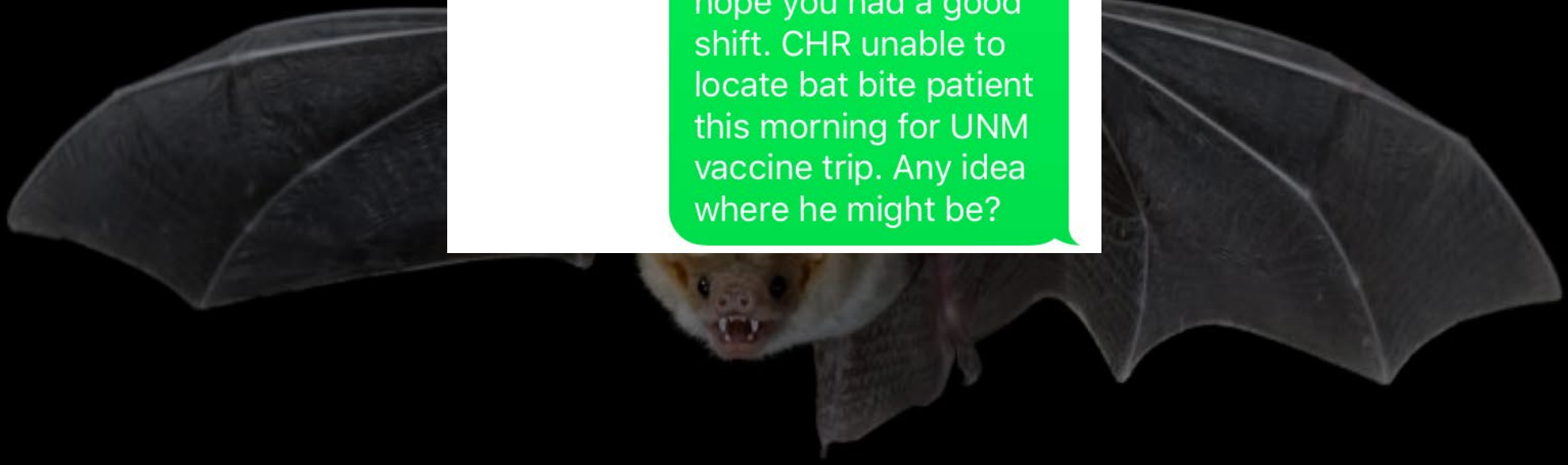
Day 3 (second Rabies vaccine injection)

New Message

Cancel

To: Tina Sarracino

Good morning Tina,  
hope you had a good  
shift. CHR unable to  
locate bat bite patient  
this morning for UNM  
vaccine trip. Any idea  
where he might be?



New Message

Cancel

To: Tina Sarracino

Ummm....he's usually at [redacted]'s residence in the village working in his yard. Does he have to go back today?

Yes. Thank you. I'll let Laurene know.

Ok....he's house is east of the kiva next to a little barber shop. I hope she knows where it's at

She's heading over there now to check

Ok



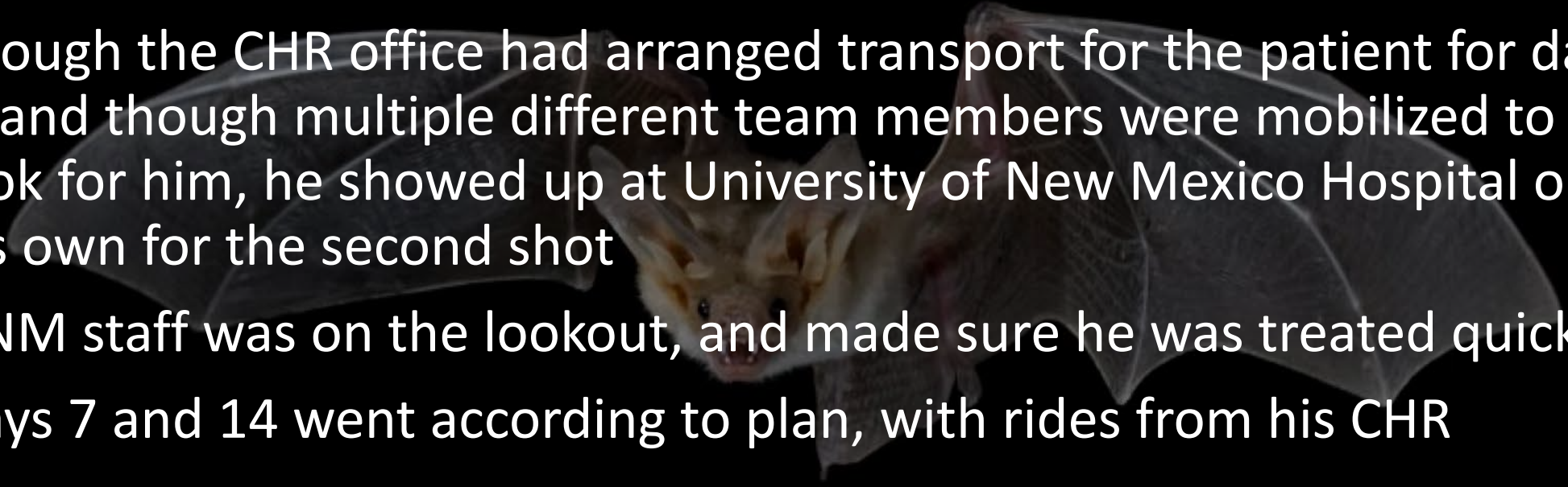
Text Message





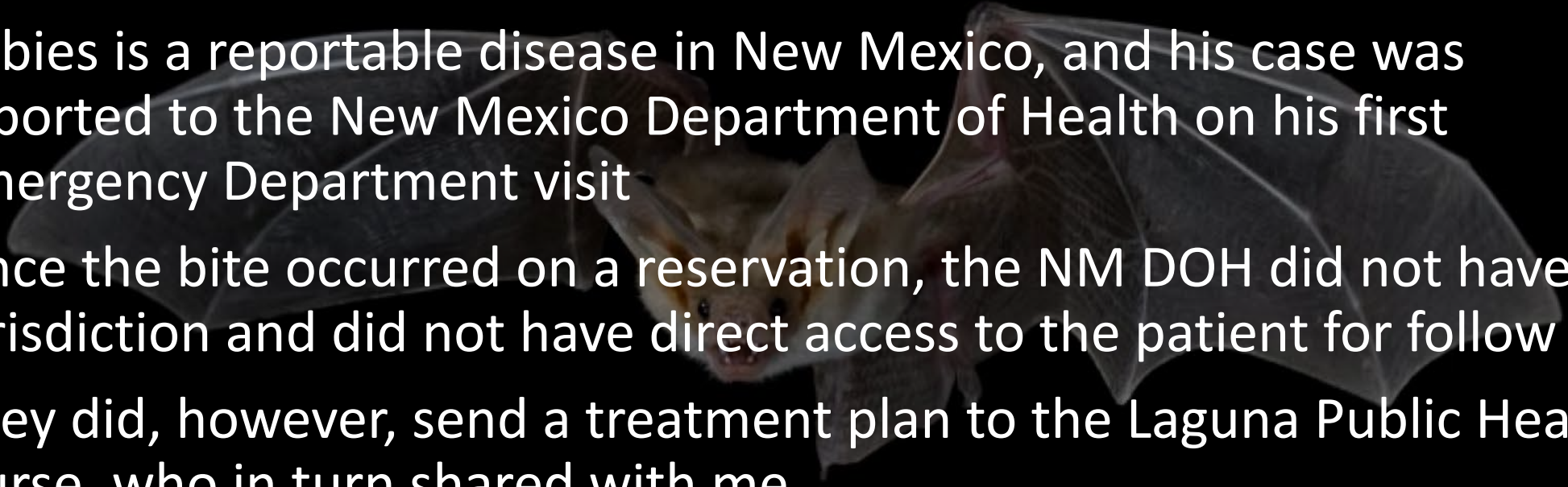
# End of story

- Though the CHR office had arranged transport for the patient for day 3, and though multiple different team members were mobilized to look for him, he showed up at University of New Mexico Hospital on his own for the second shot
- UNM staff was on the lookout, and made sure he was treated quickly
- Days 7 and 14 went according to plan, with rides from his CHR



# Side note: State vs. Tribal Public Health

- Rabies is a reportable disease in New Mexico, and his case was reported to the New Mexico Department of Health on his first Emergency Department visit
- Since the bite occurred on a reservation, the NM DOH did not have jurisdiction and did not have direct access to the patient for follow up
- They did, however, send a treatment plan to the Laguna Public Health Nurse, who in turn shared with me
- Luckily, because of everything I've already described, we already had a plan in place



# Lessons learned

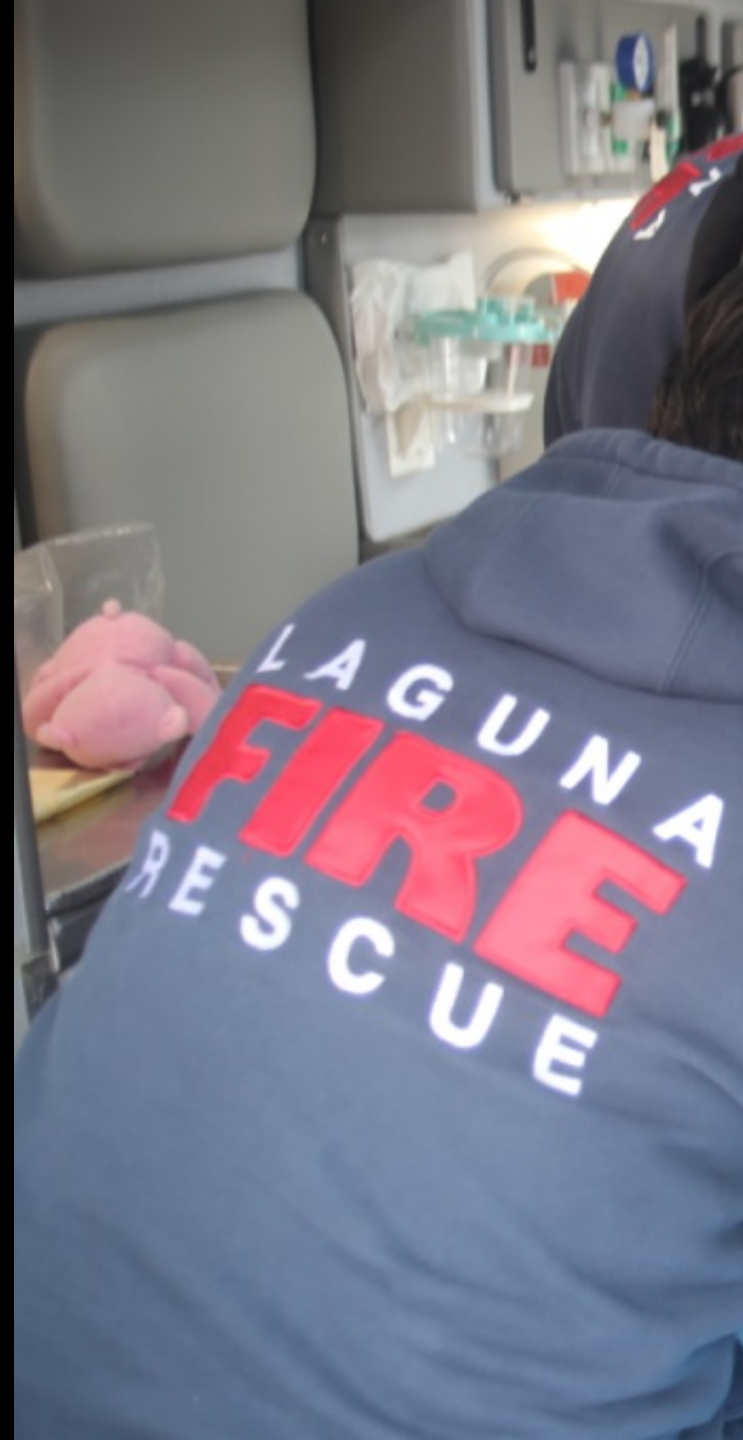
- This patient could have very easily been lost to follow up at several different points in his case
- The patient benefited from close collaboration between the emergency Paramedics, the Community Paramedics, the Community Health Representatives, the Public Health Nurses, and the Medical Director, plus good coordination with UNM Hospital and NM DOH
- The Community Paramedic concept depends on “community” as much as it depends on the Paramedic
- We must make sure our teams adapt to our patients, not the other way around

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EMS TODAY 

